



Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

11 February 1992

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Eighth UNCTAD Opens in Colombia 9 Feb	1
Gaviria Opens Conference [Madrid EFE]	1
Ghali Speaks [Mexico City NOTIMEX]	1
Spanish Official Comments [AFP]	2
Jamaican Representative at World Economic Forum [Bridgetown CANA]	2

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Mexican Foreign Secretary on Cuban Integration [Mexico City NOTIMEX]	3
Collor Opens Amazon Countries Summit in Manaus [Brasilia Radio]	3

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Roa Kouri Accuses U.S. of Rights Violations [Havana Radio]	4
Jose Ramon Fernandez Begins Visit to Tunisia [Havana Radio]	4
Laos Foreign Ministry Signs Cooperation Agreement [Havana TV]	4
Roberto Robaina Meets With Brazilian Youths [Havana Radio]	4
Roundup of Week Events Reviewed by Reporters [Havana Radio]	5

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Notes 'Deep Concerns' Over Haiti Policy [CANA]	6
--	---

Dominican Republic

Ambassador to Haiti Urges Lifting Embargo [Santo Domingo Radio/TV]	7
--	---

Haiti

Shooting Produces Brief Panic in Port-au-Prince [Port-au-Prince Radio]	7
Additional Promotions Within Army Announced [Port-au-Prince Radio]	7
More Promotions Reported [Port-au-Prince Radio]	8
Deputy: Arrested in Cap-Haitien; Cocaine Found [Port-au-Prince Radio]	8
Deputy's Reaction Cited [Port-au-Prince Radio]	8
Roundtable Features Leaders' Views on Crisis [Port-au-Prince Radio]	8

Trinidad and Tobago

Hassanal To Serve Second Term as President [CANA]	9
---	---

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Merino Says FMLN Creating 'Smoke Screen' [San Salvador Radio]	10
Vice President on New Role of Armed Forces [San Salvador TV]	10
Germany To Resume Economic Aid to Country [San Salvador TV]	10

Guatemala

URNG General Command Issues Statement [PRENSA LIBRE 7 Feb]	11
Serrano Gives URNG 30 Days To Make Proposals [Panama City ACAN]	13
Officials Comment on U.S. Human Rights Report [Guatemala City TV]	13
Serrano Comments [Guatemala City TV]	14
Ombudsman Refuses To Discuss Human Rights Report [Guatemala City TV]	14

Nicaragua

Rebel Leader Wants \$15 Million for Demobilization [LA PRENSA 5 Feb]	15
Abruptly Leaves Negotiations [BARRICADA 8 Feb]	15

Recontras, Recompas Refuse To Sign Agreement [Managua Radio]	16
German Minister Praises Chamorro Administration [Managua TV]	16

Panama

Cruz Denies Ordering Herrera's Arrest [EL PANAMA AMERICA 10 Feb]	16
Former Officer Endorses Dialogue With Government [EL PANAMA AMERICA 9 Feb]	17
Existence of Subversive Groups Investigated [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 9 Feb]	18
Vice President Ford Addresses Nation on Debt [Panama City Radio/TV]	18

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Articles Assesses Suspended Nuclear Sale to Iran [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	21
Menem Reportedly Wants Dossiers on Officials [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 9 Feb]	21
Cavallo on Menem's Possible Reelection, Economy [TELAM]	21

Brazil

Rezek 'Comfortable' at Ministry; Answers Critics [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 9 Feb]	22
--	----

Chile

Cuban Consul on Resumption of Bilateral Relations [Santiago Radio]	23
Preparation for Treaty Talks With Peru Discussed [Santiago Radio]	24
Cooperation in Japanese Satellite Launch Reported [Santiago TV]	24
Intelligence Consultative Committee Created [Santiago TV]	24
UDI Criticizes Government on Security Problems [Santiago Radio]	25

Colombia

Gaviria Addresses World Economic Summit 1 Feb [EL NUEVO SIGLO 2 Feb]	25
Minister on Kidnapping Negotiation Policy [EL TIEMPO 4 Feb]	26

Ecuador

Government Decrees State of National Emergency [Mexico City NOTIMEX]	26
--	----

Paraguay

Ministry Summons German Envoy Over Remarks [ABC COLOR 7 Feb]	27
Envoy, Deputy Minister Interviewed [Asuncion TV]	27
Government Plan To Pay Paris Club Debt Viewed [ABC COLOR 6 Feb]	28
Colorado Party Hopefuls for Presidency Listed [HOY 8 Feb]	28
Roundup on Economic Activity 31 Jan-5 Feb [ABC COLOR 31 Jan]	29

Venezuela

Army Restructuring Ordered; Urges Media Prudence [Caracas TV]	29
Perez Meets With Media, Removes Censors [Caracas TV]	29
'Siege' of EL NACIONAL Lifted; Censors Withdrawn [Madrid EFE]	30

Eighth UNCTAD Opens in Colombia 9 Feb

Gaviria Opens Conference

PA0902050392 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0045 GMT
9 Feb 92

[Text] Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), 8 Feb (EFE)—On opening the Eighth UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 9 February, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria invited the wealthiest countries to eliminate protectionism in their commercial practices and to seek "cooperation." Gaviria opened the Eighth UNCTAD meeting before 2,000 delegates from 171 countries in the Cartagena de Indias Convention Center at a ceremony with the participation of UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali.

In his speech, Gaviria called on industrialized countries, which sell weapons, and those which have reduced their military spending, to liberate their resources for cooperation.

"We will work so that part of the money that was previously used to instill fear in the adversary will now be used to sow progress and hope," the Colombian chief of state said.

Gaviria warned that "the industrialized world is headed dangerously toward a neomercantilist restoration," noting that the discussion on trade "is increasingly centered on protecting jobs rather than stimulating growth."

Opposed to this, Gaviria said one of the biggest revolutions of late has been the profound economic and commercial changes carried out by many developing countries.

The Colombian president noted that "in Latin America, in Asia, in Africa, in Eastern Europe, right here in Colombia, structural reforms have been adopted to eliminate trade barriers." He noted the need of "strengthening the role of private enterprise to permit it to play a bigger role in markets, in the allocation of resources of society."

While the lesser developed countries observe these changes, Gaviria charged that the industrialized world "is returning to the past." "Paradoxically," he noted, "while the South is marching with increasing enthusiasm toward free trade and economic reforms, industrialized nations are retreating, raising protectionist barriers, and imposing new methods of commercial restrictions."

Cesar Gaviria also warned that the possibilities of creating a new international order "based on democratic principles, politics, and in the market forces and economic freedom will be increasingly less."

Without access to markets and free trade, "the indispensable levels of economic development to defeat poverty and to promote a climate of world peace will not be achieved," Gaviria stated.

The UNCTAD, therefore, must study this phenomenon "and denounce that double standard, where the free market principles are applied selectively, benefiting some to the detriment of others."

In the same speech, the Colombian president brought up the crisis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and said that forums have been conducting negotiations for over a decade (Uruguay Round) "without a successful outcome envisioned."

In view of that prospect, Gaviria said the world "will find itself being the scenario of an unprecedented commercial war."

All of these problems, however, "lead me to think that it is a privileged era for multilateral action," the president said, urging the UNCTAD not to lag in the evolution of international trade and to strengthen its action capacity.

Before Gaviria spoke, Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos, the new president of the conference, who replaced Zimbabwe Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero in the post, said that the forum is "an excellent opportunity to help to define a new world agenda."

Santos said that the UNCTAD "is called upon to play a decisive role" because we are living in "a political and economic climate in which cooperation and solidarity must replace confrontation and dogmatism."

Ghali Speaks

PA1002003892 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1707 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 9 Feb (NOTIMEX)—UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali has warned in Cartagena that there will be no peace in the world without stability and development.

Speaking on the evening of 8 February at the inauguration of the Eighth UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Ghali called on industrialized countries to initiate a true process of cooperation and concerted efforts with the developing states.

Ghali said poverty poses a threat to the democracies of less advanced nations. It is necessary to design strategies that will allow these nations to have economic stability and a political future.

He asserted that the end of the Cold War and the North-South confrontation is not enough to ensure democratic processes in nations or to eradicate poverty.

The UN secretary general said it is necessary for the UNCTAD to seriously broach the foreign debt problem because the payment of interest and principal forces debtors to alter their social investments.

Ghali said the lack of strategies to resolve the poverty issue enhances the possibility of armed conflict.

He added that the governments have not pledged to offer effective solutions to the problems caused by underdevelopment. "The time for cooperation has come," he said.

Ghali said that with a minimum of equity, progress could be made in this area and the centers of instability in a number of poor nations could be eliminated.

He said the UNCTAD is capable of making a huge contribution to achieving equality among rich and poor countries, considering that this is a historic time in which old ideologies have been surpassed.

Ghali proposed that the United Nations prepare triannual reports on the condition of the world economy and the development.

He said that using these reports, it would be possible to design policies that would allow a reasonable level of economic and social development.

Spanish Official Comments

PA1102025692 Paris AFP in Spanish 1722 GMT
10 Feb 92

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 10 Feb (AFP)—Spanish Foreign Minister Inocencio Arias [name and title as received] said on 10 February at this beach resort that the Spanish Government will maintain its relations with the Cuban Government. Within the framework of the Eighth UNCTAD [UN Conference on Trade and Development] Conference, Arias said that "Spain cannot, and does not want, to break relations with Cuba" and has asked the international community to think about the immediate future of the Caribbean island. Arias said that "Fidel Castro's space is becoming smaller and smaller."

In statements made to a local daily, DIARIO UNIVERSAL, Arias said that "Spain has a special relationship with all the Latin American countries because of a series of historic, linguistic, and political interests." Arias also said that Spain is earmarking 12 billion pesos, approximately \$17.4 million, in credits to Latin America within the framework of the commemoration of the Fifth Centennial of the discovery of America.

At the UNCTAD Conference, which will end on 25 February, Arias called for more practical and less rhetorical actions, and said that efforts should be made to concentrate on matters of developing and establishing defined guidelines that will close the gap between rich and poor peoples. "It is time to stop blaming each other

and take advantage of the situation to confront problems, such as debt, environment, and demographic problems, which are worrisome and strongly affect progress," Foreign Minister Arias said.

Arias also said that the UNCTAD should concentrate on these matters, and take advantage of the changes that have taken place between the West and the East and the end of the Cold War between the powers. "Progress is in market economy, the opening of borders, freedom of state, and a multiple party system," the Spanish foreign minister concluded.

Jamaican Representative at World Economic Forum

FL0802014892 Bridgetown CANA in English
1922 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 7, CANA—The North American free trade agreement (NAFTA), which will allow Mexican apparel to enter the United States market duty-free, could set back industrial development in the Caribbean "for at least 20-25 years," Jamaica's chief trade representative, Ambassador Peter King, has said.

He was addressing the prestigious World Economic Forum's symposium on the textile and apparel trade, chaired by former U.S. secretary of state, Dr. Henry Kissinger, and including some of the world's leading industrialists and policy-makers in Davos, Switzerland, this week.

According to the economic development agency JAMPRO [expansion unknown], King made an "impassioned plea" on behalf of the Caribbean Basin apparel manufacturers whose two billion U.S. dollar business is threatened not only by NAFTA, but by the danger that the long drawn-out Uruguay round of trade negotiations may make no distinction between large and small garment exporters.

He called for the linking of the Uruguay round and NAFTA pact discussions. Rejecting what he called "simplistic theory," King said the proponents of free trade should consider the next effect of NAFTA and the Uruguay round on small Caribbean states.

King, who is the coordinator of the Caribbean/Central American Textile and Apparel Council and has been lobbying intensely on behalf of the region at the Uruguay round talks, said peace would always be fragile as long as economic development was stifled in developing countries.

Mexican Foreign Secretary on Cuban Integration

PA1102014792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2006 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Caracas, 9 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Through “an opening and dialogue,” Cuba will be promptly reintegrated into the inter-American system, Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana said in Caracas on 9 February.

Solana reiterated Mexico’s refusal to promote rapprochement between the United States and Cuba because “it is not up to Mexico to mediate” between these countries. Mexico maintains “splendid and very good relations” with both countries, he said.

During an interview with Mexican reporters, Solana explained Mexico’s diplomatic corps’ desire for all countries in the area to “talk openly and constructively.”

On 8 and 9 February Solana attended a special meeting of the 13 Rio Group foreign ministers in Caracas. The meeting was called by Argentina to repudiate the coup attempt in Venezuela on 4 February.

Solana said Cuba’s participation in the first Ibero-American summit in July in Mexico prompted a resumption of diplomatic relations with Colombia and rapprochement with other countries.

We hope, the head of Mexican diplomacy said, “that there will soon be opportunities for Cuba’s total integration into the inter-American mechanism.”

Cuba was expelled from the OAS at the beginning of the sixties when it was accused by the United States of promoting revolutionary movements in the region.

Solana pointed out that the invitation extended to Cuba to participate in the second Ibero-American summit, scheduled for midyear in Madrid, confirms the desire that exists for rapprochement with the island, “which must evolve on its own and make its own decisions.”

Collor Opens Amazon Countries Summit in Manaus

PY1102012292 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Fernando Collor today opened in Manaus a summit of the Amazon Pact member countries. The Amazon Pact group is formed by Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, Peru, Guyana, Suriname, Colombia, and Ecuador.

With the absence of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, the summit gathered six presidents and the foreign ministers of the member countries.

At the second meeting of the Amazon countries’ presidents, President Fernando Collor said today in Manaus

that the challenge for all nations and all governments is to create the conditions for progress and environmental protection to harmoniously coexist.

[Collor] “Sustained development, including the environmental aspect, must be radically different from the voracious growth process inherited from the industrial revolution when the illusion that natural resources were unlimited was cherished.

“We must stop the predatory and inhuman use of natural resources.”

The president stressed that the future depends on clear and firm political decisions that will help find transformative ways.

[Collor] “It is necessary to provide every man, every society, and every nation with economic and technical means to defeat the unconscious forms of devastation of which poverty is its cause and consequence.

“It is necessary for the super-developed world to remove the conscious forms of devastation in order to reach firm and innovative commitments in the task of fully protecting our natural resources.”

President Collor recalled the importance of this working meeting during which a joint political stand will be taken for presentation at the Rio ’92 conference [on environment and development]. He said that for the first time the international community will fully discuss the issue of respect for nature associated with development in its various aspects.

The president emphasized that issues ranging from the use of land, fauna, and flora to activities in the marine environment and its resources will be discussed at that conference, all from the perspective that man must be the key element of all ecological concern.

[Collor] “Concerning this basic level, there are two prevalent features in global development: comprehensiveness and inequality. The first one presents us with a situation ranging from the manipulation of cells to interference [interferencia] in outer space. Above all, it brings us hope that man’s creative abilities will serve ethical goals.

“Development’s global image at this time reveals, on the other hand, a regrettable inequality. More than 30 years of diagnosis and efforts have yielded very little besides a general feeling of frustration.”

The president added that the disproportionate levels of development represent an inefficient way of administering the planet’s resources.

President Fernando Collor stressed the importance of the UN conference that, in his opinion, could become a turning point for international cooperation and favor responsible, consequential, and ethical reflection.

The president reiterated the invitation to the chiefs of state to attend the world conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro in June.

Cuba

Roa Kouri Accuses U.S. of Rights Violations

FL1102025892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
 in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] We confirm, on this cool evening, that just minutes ago, Cuba requested that countries such as the United States, violators of the UN Charter, and I quote, and of international rights, be tried for their crimes against humanity and be excluded from the Commission of Human Rights. Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri, exercising the right of rebuttal, referred to the treatment of native Americans and blacks in the United States; the plundering of more than 50 percent of Mexico's territory; the protection of the Israeli and South African regimes; and the [word indistinct] of dirty actions against the Arab and Palestinian people. PRENSA LATINA reported from Geneva that Roa Kouri, at the 48th session of the Commission of Human Rights, accused Washington of this and much more, and of being a flagrant violator of the UN Charter and of international rights. The Cuban position was tendered following U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's request that Cuba be sanctioned for violating human rights.

Jose Ramon Fernandez Begins Visit to Tunisia

FL1102022392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
 in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Cuban Vice President Jose Ramon Fernandez today began his visit to the Republic of Tunisia with the aim of strengthening bilateral relations. Fernandez' official visit is part of a tour that began two weeks ago in Syria and concluded in Iran and Libya. During all meetings with representatives of those countries, the Cuban delegation received repeated shows of solidarity with our people and government.

Laos Foreign Ministry Signs Cooperation Agreement

FL1102030592 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministries of Cuba and the Lao People's Democratic Republic signed a cooperation agreement in Havana this afternoon. The agreement was signed by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Giraldo Mazola and Laotian Ambassador Dalaloi Phonmek. The new cooperation agreement will be valid up to 1994 and covers the exchange of information on topics of mutual interest, among which are prospects regarding the struggle for national and social liberation in the world and the struggle for peace.

Roberto Robaina Meets With Brazilian Youths

FL1002210892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
 in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Roberto Robaina, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and first secretary of the Young Communists Union [UJC], has met with 74 Brazilian youths before they departed for El Paraiso camp to work in the food program. The youths come from 19 political, youth, student, and solidarity with Cuba organizations.

[Robaina] "I had the privilege of meeting and getting to know some of you when I visited Brazil. At the time, it was impossible to visit every place, visit all the factories, work centers, universities, and all the places we would have liked to visit. Since then, we have nurtured the idea of having a considerable number of youths visit Cuba and have a new form of solidarity, not only in name or in sympathy with our cause, but a solidarity in which the youths are willing to participate, shoulder to shoulder, in some of the efforts we are conducting. Yet, you decided to form this large group and arrive in the country in the midst of this situation, and even dare to come at such times, when the whole world is interested in what is going on in Cuba, when the whole world is awaiting the outcome of that huge foreign campaign that says that Cuba is about to collapse. Well, here you are with us, in this Cuba which they say is falling apart. They are going to find out only one thing: that Cuba, instead of collapsing, is getting stronger by the day, especially through the efforts of the Cubans and the hands and radiant hearts of men and women like you who are always willing to help."

Robaina gave the Brazilian youths a general overview of Cuba's current situation, the character of the Cuban youth, and our accomplishments, deficiencies, and difficulties.

[Robaina] "I like to speak the hard truths, speak clearly. Some of the friends who try to help us portray Cuba as if it were the eighth wonder of the world, but here we do not have any such eighth wonder. We have millions of problems to correct, we have millions of things to address. Our only advantage is that we also have millions of matters we have solved by ourselves, have addressed by ourselves, and we are committed to not relinquish any of them."

The PCC and youth leader talked about the democracy, quote unquote, that some would like to establish in Cuba, as well as the multiparty system.

[Robaina] "What democracy are they talking about? When honestly, the democracy they are talking about has little to do [words indistinct]. A democracy where only 30 percent of the people vote to simply say yes or no, and where no one cares about the 70 percent that does not vote? Is that really a democracy? What do we call a democracy? Who said that capitalism has the best, true and right model of democracy in the world?"

"We truly operate from completely different points of reference. Evidently, since we are based on a different concept, that democracy is not the one in which we are interested. That democracy, in which all the leaders do is

make promises and promises, and little reaches the people. We have already experienced that democracy. We already experienced the campaigns that promise nothing [corrects himself] that promise the world, and the presidential periods that accomplish absolutely nothing. When we make improvements or changes, we change for the better. But to turn backwards? No way! [applause]

"There is one thing to say about the multiparty system: We are not against this concept, we are not against this philosophy, but we prefer to talk about our own reality. The only thing that has enabled us to triumph in coping with the powerful enemy at our doorstep is the unity of our people. We are the only ones who live in the face of the enemy. We are not asking anyone else to do our job. We are not suggesting to the world that the one-party system is the only formula for socialism. We have told the world that we live under such circumstances that as soon as we would become divided, we would be cracked in two and eliminated. However, the thing that has made us succeed in the face of this powerful enemy is a very strong concept and idea of unity. This is the phenomenon that we want to defend at all costs."

On the subject of Cuban youth, Robaina pointed out that to our youth, free health care and education are not news, since they have received everything they needed since birth. It is therefore necessary to explain to them how this came about and how youths can contribute and participate in times such as these.

[Robaina] "One the campaigns directed against Cuban youth is to simply attract them with common things of interest to any young person such as merchandise and knickknacks and filling the stores with things. I want to tell you that I prefer, or we here in Cuba, have preferred to implement a different philosophy.

"I know of many places in the world where the stores are full of items but wallets are empty. We prefer our stores have fewer items but that they are available to all, rather than having stores filled with everything for fewer and fewer people. Even in your own country, I have marvelous, quote unquote, memories of a Sao Paulo avenue, stunning in its color, its variety, and all that; but I also carry the picture of what lays behind the great and luxurious buildings of Copacabana. I remember the picture, also stunning, of children in front of a display window unable to purchase, or have, absolutely anything.

"Since the realities of the countries of our continent have so much contrast, we obviously have had to explain to our youth the meaning of all of this. If we have to perform a heart transplant, no one here is asked for their party card, or proof of revolutionary affiliation, or to pay a single dollar. Nothing is required because, above all, the important thing is that life is at stake. It is to this that we have wanted to dedicate our revolution. Do we have to solve many other things? We do have to solve many things, and are going to do many more things."

The youths and two grandparents, 78 and 74 years of age, from that South American country, will remain at El Paraiso until 27 February.

Roundup of Week Events Reviewed by Reporters

PA1002161092 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish
0900 GMT 9 Feb 92

["A Week in Cuba" report by Victor Perez Galdos and Roberto Morejon—live]

[Text] [Perez] We are here to reflect on events in Cuba over the past seven days. Joining us is my highly esteemed colleague Roberto Morejon.

[Morejon] Good evening to you, Victor, and to our listeners. We were both on vacation. How did you spend yours?

[Perez] Very well, very well. I believe that comrade Orlando Matos was here.

[Morejon] Yes, of course. Many of us were on vacation and we were the source of our comrade Raul Luis Galeano's envy. He has not gone on vacation yet.

[Perez] He was on vacation in December.

[Morejon] But who remembers that, Victor?

[Perez] Let us get started Roberto, by noting the leading events involving Cuba over the past few days.

[Morejon] Yes. This week, the provincial tribunal in Havana handed down death sentences against two of the individuals involved in the Tarara Naval Base incident. There, on 9 January, a group of criminals attempted to hijack a ship and illegally leave the country. Their plan was to travel to the United States. The Havana provincial tribunal conducted an exhaustive investigation of all the events, examined each defendant's involvement, and subsequently sentenced two of them to death. In addition, the court handed down jail sentences of 30 years, 25 years, etc. for the rest of the criminals.

The court's decision was followed very closely by all Cubans, who demanded that the severest penalties allowed, as specified in the current penal code, be applied in this case. A special situation was brought out during the hearing: the defendants in this case were encouraged by the reception given in the United States to Cuban citizens who leave the country illegally.

[Perez] I understand this was the second time that one of the defendants attempted to leave the country illegally.

[Morejon] You are referring specifically to Pedro de la Rosa Guerra. He had been punished before for attempting to leave the country illegally with his brother, who was also involved in the Tarara Naval Base incident on 9 January. De la Rosa again found himself in an adventure of this nature. This time his guilt is greater. These criminals murdered three guards, and a fourth guard is lying between life and death due to injuries

sustained in the attack. Months earlier, Pedro de la Rosa had asked the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to allow him to leave the country legally.

At his hearing, he said he was convinced he would not receive permission to leave because he did not have sufficient merits. By merits he meant he did not have a counterrevolutionary record as extensive as the United States requires in order to receive one of the few visas it grants to Cubans of well-known counterrevolutionary background. Therefore, he again involved himself in an illegal effort to leave the country and made contact with the other members of this criminal group. This is a critical part of our attempt to show that the treatment the United States gives to those who leave Cuba illegally is part of this issue.

Victor, I want to move from this issue to something else which happened this week in the United States involving Cuba. I am referring specifically to the presentation of a bill by several United States congressmen headed by Robert Torricelli. It is quite an aggressive bill against Cuba because, among other things, it is aimed at intensifying the 30-year U.S. blockade against Cuba. The most compelling element of this bill is the six-month ban on trade with the United States, which will be enforced against any ship that comes to Cuba for economic purposes. In addition, U.S. aid or free trade privileges will be denied to any country that exchanges products with the island.

If this bill is approved, it could seriously affect the normal relations the United States maintains with its European allies who trade with Cuba.

[Perez] It is a policy of blackmail to economically choke Cuba. Well Roberto, regarding other international issues that affect our country, we should not overlook the message that the Cuban president sent to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez following events in that Latin American country.

[Morejon] As you know, there was a coup attempt in Venezuela that had quite a bit of bloodshed. That information was broadcast by this station. President Perez received the support of many Latin American governments and from the rest of the world. Within this Latin American support for constitutional order in Venezuela, we must highlight the support of the Cuban authorities headed by the Cuban president, who sent a message to Carlos Andres Perez supporting the maintenance of constitutional order in Venezuela and specifically supporting the government headed by President Perez. President Fidel Castro also had other important activities to attend to during the week. I believe we could mention those activities, Victor, don't you think?

[Perez] Yes, as is the case of the meeting he held with the vice president of the Ecuadorian parliament and the meeting he held with the French senators who visited our country. Of course, Roberto, I think another important story is the adverse weather conditions which hit particularly hard in Havana.

[Morejon] Yes, on 8 February, as we speak, Havana is recovering from the effects of a tropical depression that affected the western part of Cuba. This atmospheric phenomenon caused very strong winds and the sea to enter through the northern coast. Havana suffered its worst storm damage ever. Hundreds of persons were left homeless, 2,000 were evacuated and transferred to other refuges, and there was extensive flooding and damage to household goods throughout the city. As is customary in Cuba, the authorities responded quickly. They arrived in the damaged areas with rescue crews and quickly established the support mechanisms to alleviate the worst of the damage.

[Perez] Finally Roberto, I want to mention something we referred to earlier in the newscast. That is the arrival of the Brazilian solidarity flight, which is a gesture of solidarity by outstanding Brazilian intellectuals and Brazilians in general with our people at this moment.

[Morejon] Yes, Victor, it is noteworthy that many of the passengers aboard that aircraft participated last month in a gigantic Cuban solidarity event in the Brazilian city of Niteroi. The passengers included scientists, politicians, Cuban leaders, artists, doctors, etc., who went to Niteroi to make contact with the Brazilians. Many of those who promoted the event are now in Cuba. Of course, we have other important news, such as the book fair in Havana, the granting of the literary award, the signing of the document for consular relations between Belize and Cuba, and others. We ran out of time, however, and must step aside for other features. I expect to see you this coming Saturday, 15 February, so we can again review the Cuban situation over the past seven days.

[Perez] Of course, I will be here. Accept our greetings and also convey them to our colleague in charge of the evening newscast on Radio Havana Cuba. Thank you.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Notes 'Deep Concerns' Over Haiti Policy

FL1002144092 Bridgetown CANA in English
1702 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 8, CANA—Some Caribbean Community governments are deeply upset about the United States' policy on Haiti, according to a Caribbean Community Secretariat spokesman.

The United States' forced repatriation of Haitian refugees and its unilateral easing of an Organisation of American States- recommended trade and aid embargo on Haiti have not gone down well with some community leaders, the Secretariat official, who did not want to be identified, reported.

At least five Caribbean Community member countries were said to be upset by the U.S. stance.

The spokesman for the Georgetown-based Secretariat said that the Community's "deep concerns over developments relating to the Haitian crisis and the Haitian boat people" would be considered as an agenda item for the forthcoming Caricom informal summit in Jamaica on February 19.

Some Caricom governments were said to be "deeply upset" by the Bush administration's failure to use its enormous influence and resources in helping the Organisation of American States to play a "more constructive and decisive role" in the restoration of constitutional and democratic government in Port-au-Prince.

Community government, like other OAS members, are seeking the restoration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted last September by a Haitian Army coup.

They support the embargo as one option to pressure the Haitian authorities into reinstating Aristide, an outspoken priest. [passage omitted]

In Venezuela, from where he continues to attract attention to developments in Haiti, President Aristide said that he fails to understand how 34 countries of the OAS "cannot say no to one criminal". This was his obvious reference to the man who led the coup against him on September 30 last year, General Raoul Cedras, who has vowed to prevent his return to power.

Dominican Republic

Ambassador to Haiti Urges Lifting Embargo

FL1002225092 Santo Domingo Radio-Television
Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1636 GMT
10 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Jose del Carmen Acosta, Dominican ambassador to Haiti, has called for the immediate lifting of the OAS embargo against Haiti. Jose del Carmen Acosta said that the situation in Haiti is discouraging, and pointed out that the people's poverty has increased by more than 60 percent in the past four months. The Dominican ambassador to Haiti said that deforestation has increased more than 80 percent in the past four months, due to the need of Haitians to cut down trees for cooking fuel since there is no propane gas in the country.

The Dominican diplomat in Haiti said the embargo against Haiti has lost its impact and has increased feelings of nationalism among Haitians.

Additionally, when interviewed at the National Palace, Jose del Carmen Acosta said he was opposed to Jean-Bertrand Aristide's visit to the Dominican Republic at such an early date. Acosta viewed his visit as inappropriate because of the situation Haiti is now experiencing. [passage omitted]

Haiti

Shooting Produces Brief Panic in Port-au-Prince

FL1002201392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Unrest took place during pre-carnival Sunday activities at the Champ de Mars yesterday evening.

Several unidentified men in a car shot gunfire in the Champ de Mars area provoking a great panic for several minutes. The party atmosphere eventually returned, however, with the musical group that was playing.

At the hospital, several people, slightly injured, were assisted in the emergency room.

Additional Promotions Within Army Announced

FL1102000492 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1145 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] There were new promotions within the Haitian Army over the weekend. The following people are pleased with their promotions: Major Joseph Michel-Francois, head of the Port-au-Prince Police, was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Haitian Armed Forces. Rothchild Francois Jr. has more details.

[Begin Rothchild recording] Six lieutenant colonels were promoted to the rank of colonel, and 14 majors were promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. The names of the new colonels are: Jodel Lessage, Pierre-Antoine, Atouriste Antoine, Mondesir Beaubrun, Lionel D. Sylvain, and Jean-Robert Gabriel, current secretary of the Army General Staff. The majors promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel include: Joseph Michel-Francois, current Port-au-Prince chief of police; Leopold Clair-Jeune; (Sadrack Saintil); Henri-Pyram Germain; (Coulange Justafort); Marc-Antoine Metelus; Jean-Louis Saint-Cazeau; Louis Marcelin Daniel; Jean-Robert Rene; Jean-Evans Gedeon; Jean-Thomas Syrien; (Frank Selin); (Claude Josaphat); and Bernardo Leonidas. Other promotions also occurred over the weekend at the levels of captain and lieutenant in the Haitian Army.

You will recall that three new generals of the Haitian Army were also appointed on 8 February by commander in chief, General Raoul Cedras. Other important changes were also made on this same date. Col. Jean-Claude Duperval, 45 years old, former Haitian military attache in Venezuela and former head of the Port-au-Prince police during the administration of Ertha Pascal Trouillot, was promoted to the rank of major general and appointed assistant Army commander in chief. Former Col. Philippe Biamby, expelled from the military in April 1989 by General Prosper Avril for his participation in an attempted coup d'etat, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general as chief of the Army High Staff. Col. Henri-Max Mayard, ad-interim high staff member, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and appointed general inspector of the Haitian Armed Forces.

Other high-level Army officers were also promoted or transferred to other posts. They include Col. Joseph-Lemoine Florestant, Col. Henri-Robert Augustin, and Col. Eddy Louis, appointed military attaches in Washington, Caracas, and Paris, respectively. [end recording]

More Promotions Reported

FL1102004792 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] New promotions within Haiti's Armed Forces include, to the rank of colonel: Lieutenant Colonel Jodel Lessage; Lt. Col. Joseph Pierre-Antoine; Lt. Col. Antoine Atouriste; Lt. Col. Joseph Pierre Antoine; Lt. Col. Ramus Saintvil; Lt. Col. Dumarsais Romulus; Lt. Col. Mondesir Beaubrun; Lt. Col. Belony Groshomme; Lt. Col. Jean-Eugene Jose; Lt. Col. Bernadin Poisson; Lt. Col. Jean-Brunel Goby; Lt. Col. Lionel B. Sylvain; and Lt. Col. Jean-Robert Gabriel.

Those promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel include: Major Leopold ClerJeune; Maj. Sadrac Saintil; Maj. Henri P. Germain; Maj. Coulangue Justafort; Maj. Marc-Antoine Metelus; Maj. Jean-Lucien Cazeaux; Lt. Col. [as heard] A.H. Louis Marcelin Daniel; Maj. Jean-Robert Rene; Maj. Franck Celin; Maj. Jean-Thomas Cyprien; Maj. Joseph Michel Francois; Maj. Derby Guerrier; Maj. J. Evans Gedeon; Maj. Claudel A. Josaphat; Maj. Bernardo R. Leonidas; Maj. Estime Simon; and Maj. Michel-Ange Herman;

Promoted to the rank of major were: Capt. Michaud Saint-Fleur; Capt. Jean-Roland Dufresne; Capt. Joseph Lesly Sanz; Capt. Joseph Miracle Ira; Capt. Ernst J. M. Lubin; Capt. Marc Kernizan; Capt. David Bazile; Capt. Serge Dupoux; Capt. Lener Renaud; Capt. Josel Charles; Capt. Casimir Louis; Capt. Auguste Raphael Jerome; Capt. Serge Justafort; Capt. Appolon Medassier; Capt. Richelet Louis-Jacques; and Capt. Joseph Jacques Thomas.

Officers promoted to the rank of captain include the following: Lt. Rigaud Raphael; Lt. Ulrick Pierre; Lt. Berrier Dubuche; Lt. Henrius Jacquet; Lt. Lineau Vilson; Lt. Edner Augustin; and Lt. Noel Sylvain Beaubrun.

Deputy Arrested in Cap-Haitien; Cocaine Found

FL1002200592 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Report by Cap-Haitien correspondent Jocelyn Jean]

[Text] According to Captain [name indistinct] Leandre, the police chief in Cap-Haitien, Deputy Raphael Michel Adelson has been arrested during search operations that the police were carrying out in the east of Cap-Haitien, located in the area of Lotbo Pon.

During the search, the police discovered a gun and half a kilogram of cocaine in the car that the deputy was driving. He did not have his driver's license and the car does not belong to him.

The policemen took the deputy to the police station where a report was made out. The deputy was released immediately thereafter. The police, however, kept the keys to the car, the gun, and his permit to carry arms.

We did not have the chance to meet with the deputy who went to Port-au-Prince as early as the evening of 8 February.

Deputy's Reaction Cited

FL1102031092 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The police in Cap-Haitien released the Port Margot deputy the same day he was arrested. The deputy reacted to his arrest by saying that the legal procedure would normally be to bring him before the courts, but that this is impossible because he is still a deputy. He made this statement upon his release. Deputy Adelson stated that the accusation against him is unfounded. [passage omitted]

The deputy believes that it was a well-prepared plot. He added that that the scenario went so far as to include verbal attack, which strikes a blow not only at him, but also at the body of which he is a member, the Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

We are referring to Deputy Michel Raphael Adelson who was explaining the circumstances of his arrest, and denying the accusations that the police in Cap-Haitien brought in order to arrest him. The deputy acknowledged that he had been driving a car that does not belong to him, but that he was careful enough to check the car before using it. [passage omitted]

According to Deputy Raphael Adelson, there is no chance of his being prosecuted because of the illegality of the act committed by the Cap-Haitien police. The deputy reported that the police officials in Cap-Haitien had made him compromise offers. He added that he made no statement to the police or the judge before his release. He thinks these probe operations are not credible because those who carry them out are dishonest and involved in drug trafficking. He believes that these maneuvers should stop because he doubts the credibility of the police and feels that the military officials should respect members of the Haitian institutions.

Roundtable Features Leaders' Views on Crisis

FL1002234392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpt] [words indistinct] on that occasion, Radio Metropole invited several political leaders, several political figures. Some of these officials could not attend for reasons beyond their control. The guests present at the roundtable yesterday included Max Bourjolly of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH], Volvick Remy Joseph of the National Cooperative Action Movement [MKM], Deputy Joseph Lambert, Senator Thomas

Eddy Dupiton, and British journalist Gregg Chamberlain. Clarence Renois conducted the debate. The major conclusion drawn as a result of this debate is that everyone must participate, that a true consensus is necessary to get the country out of the crisis.

MKM leader Joseph Remy Joseph's statements again suggested a national conference on the crisis. Joseph said the country's sovereignty must not be questioned in the event of negotiations. Max Bourjolly of PUCH also claimed to be a partisan of national sovereignty. He pointed out that no beggar is autonomous. Bourjolly favors the formation of a new government on the basis of a national consensus program. Deputy Joseph Lambert believes that the only solution possible is a political solution.

Senator Eddy Dupiton announced that the upper chamber will soon publish the conclusions it has drawn through consultations with vital sectors of the nation. Parliamentarian Dupiton believes the most prominent current trend is to form a national union government. [passage omitted]

Trinidad and Tobago

Hassanali To Serve Second Term as President

*FL1002164592 Bridgetown CANA in English
2006 GMT 8 Feb 92*

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 8, CANA—Noor Hassanali will serve a second term as president of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Prime Minister's Information Division said that Hassanali was the only candidate for the office of president after nominations closed Friday evening.

His nomination paper was signed by members of the government, including Prime Minister Patrick Manning, and of the opposition, including leader Basdeo Panday.

There will be a February 18 meeting of the Electoral College in Parliament to confirm the post of Hassanali, a former High Court judge.

Hassanali was appointed in 1987. [Words indistinct] Sir Ellis Clarke who also held the post of president for two terms.

El Salvador**Merino Says FMLN Creating 'Smoke Screen'**

PA1002201992 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central
in Spanish 1230 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Gregorio Moran report on statement by Vice President Francisco Merino; place and date not given—passages with quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Several leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] recently left the country for Mexico saying they did not feel safe here due to the existence of groups that from the beginning were opposed to the peace process.

Vice President Francisco Merino Lopez responded by saying that this could be a smoke screen created by the rebels.

[Merino] "I believe the allegation that there are groups within Salvadoran society possibly threatening the lives of FMLN leaders is a smoke screen. These groups have been purged in the past. There are several cases. Commander Maria [Ana Maria Lili Lara Ramirez], for example, was murdered on orders from another FMLN leader at the beginning of this decade, probably with the intention of blaming the government or the Public Security Forces."

Merino added that those threats could possibly come from within the FMLN.

[Merino] "If true, those threats come from within their own organization. They have used violence as a means of expression. The rest of us have lived within the law and have faced the permanent threat posed by the FMLN, and now common crime on a daily basis."

Regarding the case of former Captain Francisco Mena Sandoval, now one of the top guerrilla leaders, who said he felt threatened by statements made by Generals Rene Emilio Ponce and Ernesto Vargas, Merino said:

[Merino] "I think he carries the stigma of a traitor. This will be on his conscience permanently. Although there is no direct threat against his life, his conscience must be bothering him after his betrayal. Just as he was once a traitor, the FMLN should be worried about the attitude of someone like him."

Merino noted the increasing level of crime in Salvadoran society, particularly in San Salvador. He said now that the National Guard and Treasury Police will disappear as public security corps, the National Police must act diligently and efficiently to counter criminal groups.

Vice President on New Role of Armed Forces

PA1002181492 San Salvador Canal Seis Television
in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The Armed Forces will make the best use of its human resources to comply with its constitutional mission, even in times of peace. Therefore, its forces will include the members of the National Guard and the Treasury Police.

Vice President Francisco Merino said the Army will absorb the personnel from those two security agencies—which will disband as part of the peace agreements—who have the best military training.

[Begin Merino recording, in progress] will be members of the Armed Forces. In that regard, they will have a new mission. In view of the professionalization and technical training that members of the National Guard received in their previous capacity, they have been assigned to border positions as part of the Armed Forces. We must remember that within the framework of the agreements, the Armed Forces will continue with their mission of protecting our national territory and providing security to its inhabitants. [end recording]

Merino said the Armed Forces will continue to fulfill their role, but military aid will be used to support the country's reconstruction.

On 6 February Marino participated in a ceremony during which an agreement was signed for the implementation of a development plan for small and micro-enterprises. The plan is funded with \$100,000 from the UN Development Program, PNUD. UN Representative Walter Franco said the program is a UN contribution to the national reconstruction plan.

[Begin Franco recording] We believe that the consolidation of peace demands economic reactivation, and the reactivation of small and medium-sized enterprises plays a predominant role in those efforts. [end recording]

The aid for small and micro-enterprises will benefit thousands of Salvadorans by creating new jobs.

Germany To Resume Economic Aid to Country

PA1002165092 San Salvador Canal Seis Television
in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The German Government will resume economic aid to El Salvador, which had been suspended following the murder of the Jesuit priests. The German economic cooperation minister made this announcement to the Salvadoran foreign minister during a meeting in San Salvador.

The German economic cooperation minister's visit will mark the resumption of German aid to El Salvador. On 6 February German Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger and Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro held talks on that subject.

[Begin Pacas Castro recording] Minister Spranger is the German economic cooperation minister. His presence in our country clearly illustrates the German Government's decision to resume economic aid to El Salvador. That aid was suspended following the murder of the Jesuit priests. Now that Salvadoran justice has resolved this regrettable case, and since a peace agreement was finally reached, the German Government has expressed its desire to support the government's reconstruction efforts. [end recording]

Minister Spranger visited the chapel at the Jose Simon Canas Central American University, UCA, where the murdered priests were buried. On 7 February he will meet with President Cristiani and with Joaquin Villalobos, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Minister Pacas said German aid will be used to rebuild the country.

[Begin Pacas recording] We are discussing the total amount of aid. We have complete plans that include specific areas where German aid can be used. I must clarify that German cooperation was not totally suspended during the past years, as we continued to receive aid from nongovernmental institutions. This new phase would include direct cooperation between our two governments. [end recording]

German aid to El Salvador has been significant.

Guatemala

URNG General Command Issues Statement

PA1002212692 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 7 Feb 92 pp 26, 27

[Statement issued by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, in Guatemala on 7 February: "Statement by the General Command to the people of Guatemala"]

[Text] Ten years ago, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) was created. This event was of great importance and significance for our country's democratic, revolutionary, and popular movement.

Such a significant and historic development surprised and frightened the enemies of freedom, democracy, progress, and social justice. For the revolutionary and democratic forces, it constituted a path toward development, growth, and combativeness to face in a joint and successful manner the enemies' growing attacks.

We are an undivided revolutionary, political, and military movement, made up of structured organizations with political concepts recognized at home and abroad.

The URNG has shown coherence and indestructible strength. We have a record of seriously and honestly abiding by our commitments and of activities that our adversaries have been unable to stop.

The constant and systematic guerrilla activities now under way in 13 out of the 22 departments of the country constitute a fundamental factor for viewing the URNG as a political-military force seeking a solution to internal strife.

The creation of the URNG allowed popular and democratic sectors to fight for and meet the demands of the people. Other sectors, sensing their selfish interests and power at risk and unable to defeat us, unleashed a brutal onslaught against the population.

For most Guatemalans, the unity of revolutionary forces also offers a possibility of building a real, viable, and participative democracy. A democracy that will lay the foundations for solving the country's problems.

These 10 years of victories, setbacks, and adversities have also served to rally all Guatemalans who want freedom, democracy, development, progress, welfare, justice, and peace for the country.

The country's situation is in essence unchanged. No solutions are anticipated, and in some aspects the situation has worsened. Guatemala is mired in poverty, backwardness, repression, and terror that violates even the most basic human rights.

While the government advertises economic stability as a major achievement, the fact is that macroeconomic growth is at best 1.7 percent. Only those in the economically powerful sectors benefit from this growth.

Unemployment and underemployment remain very high. Real wages have dropped, while the cost of living has increased with the rise in electricity and fuel costs. These increases have in turn forced up the prices of transportation, merchandise, and general products.

Members of the state's repressive corps are among those with a guaranteed salary. The Army pays officers a high wage, part of that in dollars. Meanwhile, the current minimum salary of a soldier is 348.00 quetzals.

There are so few job opportunities in Guatemala, the government develops programs that force young people from rural and urban areas to join the counterinsurgency corps strictly for economic reasons.

Government measures promote monopolies that in turn drive up raw material and transportation costs, hindering agricultural and industrial producers.

The quetzal's relative stability with the dollar, currently about 5 quetzals to the dollar, stems in part from the injection of dirty capital from money laundering, drug manufacturing and trafficking, and from large foreign investments in assembly plants.

Guatemala is one of the countries where drug traffickers have made major investments with laundered dollars. Government and state institutions have benefited, while civilian officials and military personnel have become wealthy.

With their despicable, criminal activity, international drug traffickers have turned our country into a major drug-trafficking and production center.

Furthermore, the government, which still has no government program, has not even been able to develop a plan to fight extreme poverty and unemployment and restore the peoples' purchasing power to partially alleviate their suffering.

In the social field, health and education services have deteriorated to an alarming degree. There have been no plans for a budget to provide these basic services to the population.

The population's health requirements demand better facilities for medical emergencies and sanitation. Medical services are deficient and have been reduced; hospitals currently operate at one-third of their capacity. There is a lack facilities, medical equipment, and medical and paramedical personnel. The population's minimal health requirements are not being met.

Regarding education, there are no schools for over a million children. Seventy percent of all Guatemalans do not know how to read or write, while 10,000 teachers are unemployed or have jobs other than teaching. There is also is no widespread social welfare, cultural, or recreation program. The population has no possibility of increasing its cultural and entertainment levels.

Justice cannot be applied in Guatemala because, up to now, there is no real *de jure* state and the government has not assumed its inherent responsibilities. Our country continues to stand out in the world for its human rights violations, which continue to be pointed out by the international community. Organizations that carry out activities against terrorism and impunity have been constantly harassed by the state's repressive apparatus. Such repressive activity has immobilized the state's peasant and worker unions, which are constantly being threatened. However, the people in general have continued their spontaneous vindictive mobilizations. Political, social, and religious sectors have taken a stand in defense of human rights and against political and military control of the people.

The URNG has stated, reiterates, and maintains its goodwill to find a political solution to the crisis through dialogue and negotiation. Its proposals for a solution have been both firm and flexible. We participate in the dialogue and the negotiation as a real and serious alternative. We seek political agreements. We firmly maintain our position. We are struggling to reach an agreement on a solution to the conflict. We are aware of this process' political and institutional obstacles and we have pointed them out on other occasions.

There are sectors that intend to block and undermine the dialogue. They make incoherent statements and carry out political activities and propagandistic actions. There have also been biased government measures. They try to create

images, belittle the URNG's proposals, and stage counter-insurgent and offensive activities in the areas of conflict. The current expectations demand that we pass from statements to actions and start to negotiate seriously.

Regarding reconciliation in Guatemala, it must necessarily include the learning of the real facts and the strict fulfillment and verification of the agreements. Both parts must assume their own responsibilities, demonstrate their political will, and have the courage to carry out the agreements.

On this special historic date for Guatemala, we want to express our appreciation for all the governments, institutions, and international organizations that have supported the process. We especially want to recognize the support of the Mexican Government and people. Each day we try to overcome and end a dark history for Guatemala.

The participation of all political, economic, social, and religious sectors in the negotiations is valuable and indispensable. Without it, it would not be possible to resolve the basic problems.

These sectors—which have so far participated in meetings with the URNG and have reiterated to us and the government their willingness to participate in the talks—are key players in the negotiating process and cannot be excluded from it.

The dialogue process belongs to the people of Guatemala and requires everyone's participation through different forms, manifestations, and expressions.

The URNG has pledged to assist the country, through gradual and joint political accords with all sectors and the implementation of the necessary changes, to overcome the crisis and eliminate the causes of the current internal armed conflict.

Everyone should help find alternatives that will resolve the crisis. No one should be excluded. Thus, it is important for all Guatemalans to support the initial steps. The people's participation is of utmost importance. Without popular participation, the negotiations' accomplishments would be neither positive nor sufficient.

The people of Guatemala should receive more truthful information. Most of the little information given to them has been manipulated and distorted. We urge the people not to let others confuse them and to participate directly and actively in this process. At this stage, the people should support the agreements we reach, and later they should demand compliance and develop viable initiatives on different aspects aimed at overcoming the crisis.

The URNG lauds the peace accord signed between the government of President Alfredo Cristiani and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. We hope that through compliance with the accord, the Salvadoran people can attain the longed-for peace that has cost them so much blood. The Salvadoran people should now confront the battles to make what was agreed upon come

true. We are confident they will fulfill the goals for which they have struggled so hard.

Our process will be viewed with confidence in the measure that the agreements bring solutions to the national problems. All Guatemalans will then be able to build a more just society, with progress and social benefits, where the new generations will find opportunities to meet their needs and fully develop themselves.

We call on workers, peasants, indians, intellectuals, Christians, businessmen, citizens, women, peace-loving people, and human rights advocates who want a prosperous, just, and democratic Guatemala to continue the struggle.

For our part, on this 10th anniversary, convinced of our just position, we reiterate our willingness to struggle as long as necessary, using all means and forms possible, to fulfill the objectives of this just and noble cause.

General Command of the URNG

Commander Rolando Moran

Commander Gaspar Ilom

Commander Pablo Monsanto

Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the PGT [Guatemalan Labor Party]

Guatemala, 7 February 1992

Serrano Gives URNG 30 Days To Make Proposals

PA0902131792 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1704 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano said on February 7 that the General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) has 30 days to present specific proposals to achieve peace in the country.

Guatemala is the only country in the region that has had an internal armed conflict for more than 30 years. According to international organizations, the conflict has resulted in more than 100,000 deaths.

The URNG has met with a government delegation seven times since April 1991, but the dialogue has achieved little progress because the parties have failed to reach agreements, particularly on human rights issues.

"My position has been clear—goodwill and no demagoguery—but the guerrilla organization has obstructed the talks intended to reach an agreement to achieve peace and tranquillity for the Guatemalan people," the president told the media.

Serrano added that the URNG has been given 30 days to present specific proposals to his government so "a peace agreement can be signed as soon as possible."

He also pledged to give a "specific and overall" answer to the URNG's proposal within 15 days. Later they

could hold a "marathon" meeting to find points of consensus on the reconciliation agreements.

"As far as I am concerned, we could sign the agreement tomorrow, but they (the URNG) do not want to. That is why I am publicly giving them evidence of my determination to sponsor the achievement of peace in the country," he emphasized.

The government and the rebel "general command" recently became involved in a verbal confrontation, accusing each other of lacking the will to achieve progress in the peace negotiations.

A report from the rebel news agency "CERIGUA," datelined in Mexico City, states that "the signing of a peace agreement in Guatemala is unthinkable unless the entire agenda is discussed by the government, the Army, and the guerrilla groups."

"The problem is the government's lack of political willingness and the constant, large-scale, and, above all, unpunished violation of the Guatemalan people's human rights," the note emphasizes.

No deadlines or dates can be established for the achievement of peace in Guatemala until the government and the Army clearly prove their political willingness to negotiate and reach firm, serious, and verifiable agreements, the URNG emphasized.

Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada, conciliator of the government-URNG peace dialogue, said on 8 February that the process has not reached a stalemate and that "significant progress has been achieved concerning the issue of human rights."

Officials Comment on U.S. Human Rights Report

PA1002195592 Guatemala City Teleonce Television
in Spanish 0330 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Government and human rights sectors are still analyzing a U.S. State Department report on the human rights situation in Guatemala. Some circles feel the report predominantly condemns the government. Official sectors, however, say that deep down it recognizes some progress. Here are the views of Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon Carpio, President Jorge Serrano Elias, Vice President Gustavo Espina, and National Defense Minister General Domingo Garcia Samayoa.

[Begin recording] [De Leon] The U.S. Government states in its report.... [pauses] I believe the report is objective; it recognizes progress. I grant you, its statements are harsh, but there are also arguments and justifications for them. In that regard, one must respect the way they analyze the situation in Guatemala.

[Reporter] Why do you think that no progress is recognized [words indistinct] progress at the administrative level [words indistinct]?

[De Leon] This may stem from certain political or ideological views or certain statements or ideologies.

[Serrano] There is something that is very positive. The progress we have achieved this year in human rights in Guatemala is recognized. We believe that another part of the report simply repeats what our [words indistinct] have said. It comments on incidents that took place in 1989 and 1990 and does not really reflect all the progress that has been made, such as the arrest of persons implicated in some of those murders and many other things.

[Espina] The U.S. document has several aspects. Seeing it [words indistinct] as an analysis, one realizes it contains positive aspects, since it recognizes a substantial improvement in human rights. It mentions some incidents that took place in 1989 and 1990 and some incidents that took place during our mandate. As you can see, it widely recognizes that President Serrano is a tireless democrat and that there has been greater respect for human rights during our government than during previous periods. It recognizes that significant efforts have been made.

I believe the document contains many positive aspects, which indicate that our government is working efficiently.

[Garcia] We reviewed the document, and it contains many positive aspects. It notes that there has been substantial progress in the government's attitude. We find it very interesting that the progress was noticed.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] Negative aspects. We must accept its views even if it is (?negative), but we are entitled to comment on some statements in this respect. I think the government will do so at the opportune time. [end recording]

Serrano Comments

*PA1102005992 Guatemala City Teleonce Television
in Spanish 0330 GMT 7 Feb 92*

[Text] President Jorge Serrano Elias made some statements on human rights at a breakfast he offered for foreign correspondents at the presidential residence on 6 February.

Serrano spoke about criticism contained in a U.S. State Department report on the human rights situation in Guatemala. The report, however, also recognizes that there have been improvements in human rights compared to the conditions that prevailed under President Cerezo Arevalo's administration.

Serrano condemned the fact that the State Department's report once again included cases dating back to 1989 and 1990, before he had taken office. Serrano thus rejected accusations of negligence regarding the murder of U.S. citizen Michael Devine in July 1990.

He noted that the case is in the hands of the law and five military officers have been detained. Therefore, we

cannot be accused of negligence—as the report states—because then we could accuse them of negligence in the trial of Manuel Noriega.

When asked if he believed that Guatemala's position on Cuba was the reason behind Washington's critical report, Serrano carefully responded: I know that maybe they do not like Guatemala's position toward Cuba—and it could be that many people do not like this position—but we think there has been 30 years of pressure against Cuba, and now the pressure against the Cuban Government is being felt by the Cuban people.

Serrano stated: This is similar to what is happening in Guatemala. They put pressure on us, but the government really does not feel the pressure; the needy people of Guatemala feel the pressure. He added: That is why we believe that—in the case of Cuba—there should be a petition for a Latin American dialogue basically aimed at searching for liberties in Cuba. These liberties would allow for a broader concept of democracy.

Ombudsman Refuses To Discuss Human Rights Report

*PA1102004292 Guatemala City Teleonce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Feb 92*

[Text] On 5 February, Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon Carpio ruled out the possibility that he may meet with government officials to discuss the content of his annual report on human rights, which was submitted to the Congress of the Republic last week. He made those comments in reaction to a statement by Manuel Conde Orellana, secretary general of the presidency, who disagreed with some fundamental aspects of the ombudsman's report and said it should be discussed with him. On 6 February, De Leon Carpio had this to say about the matter.

[Begin recording] [De Leon] I have said the report was written with total objectivity and realism. It was not meant to be discussed unless the Congress of the Republic summons me. I will discuss it with the Congress, because that branch is most widely representative, and it is also the branch that commissioned me. There is no reason why I should discuss the report with Mr. Conde. The report is there, and that is it. It is objective and represents the facts. That is how the government should act and be efficient when it comes to offering cooperation and support to the ombudsman, if, indeed, its words match the facts. In this respect, Mr. Conde's remarks fall outside the law or the functions of the ombudsman's office. I repeat: I will not discuss my report with any official of the executive branch. I will discuss it and expand on it for the Congress of the Republic.

[Reporter] What do you think is Mr. Conde's attitude about the matter?

[De Leon] I feel that often words do not reflect the facts. The government is saying it is fulfilling its duties with the ombudsman, but sometimes it does not. For

example, there are officials who have not abided by the law by failing to provide me with information I requested. This is a failure to comply with the law. Just as other ombudsmen elsewhere, I will give a list of officials who do not provide information to or cooperate with the ombudsman as mandated by Articles 25 and 26 of the Ombudsman Law. That agrees with what I am saying about actions not matching words. I think these errors, which sometimes are made out of ignorance or for some other reason unknown to me, must be corrected. It is for that reason that I am categorical about the matter, so these errors can be corrected. I think of them merely as errors. [Reporter] Which officials are failing to comply with the law?

[De Leon] I will name them at the opportune time. As I said, I will give the names every three months, because ombudsmen from all over the world use this measure as a moral force; namely, to give the names of officials who are not doing their job. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Rebel Leader Wants \$15 Million for Demobilization

PA0702183592 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
5 Feb 92 p 1, 12

[Article by Edgardo Solorzano]

[Text] According to statements made to this newspaper by rebel leader Francisco Baldivia "Dimas" in Tomatoya on 3 February, he is asking the government for \$5,000 for the permanent disarmament of each demobilized man.

Baldivia reported that there are currently 3,000 armed men in the mountains of the northern part of Nicaragua, therefore, a total of \$15 million is required for their demobilization.

The issue will be discussed in a meeting Baldivia will hold with Carlos Hurtado, government minister, and Leonel Rodriguez, deputy minister of finances, in Managua on 7 February.

This controversial "recontra" leader is married and has three daughters, ages 16, 15, and 13. He noted that he would "never let them participate in the war because they are women and students."

Baldivia's wife—who is also a rebel and answers to the nom de guerre "Sandra"—stated: "Dimas has presented at least 21 demands to the government. He really does want the disarmament of his troops." "Sandra" was also present during the ceremony to surrender weapons at Tomatoya Base.

In addition to the \$5,000, Baldivia is asking that each of his men receive a house and land to till.

During the initial phase of the negotiation, other rebel commanders had demanded that the government give

them up to \$1,000 for each demobilized man. The government has always denied such requests.

Baldivia arrived at Tomatoya Base on 3 February to observe the demobilization and disarmament process of a group of 800 men that included both "recontras" and "recompas." He also took advantage of Government Minister Carlos Hurtado's presence at the ceremony to talk with him for more than one hour.

When asked by this newspaper whether he was initiating negotiations with the government, Baldivia answered: "I am not negotiating; so far we have just been talking." He preferred not to talk about the content of the talks.

Nevertheless, this is the third time that Baldivia met with the government minister. The first meeting took place in Esteli at the end of January. The following meeting took place in Managua on 1 February. On both occasions, Baldivia and Hurtado met in private for the initial talks to discuss demobilization.

Delegates for "recontra" leaders Camaneca, 3-20, Charro, and others were also present at Tomatoya. They asked Baldivia to represent them during the 7 February talks.

According to other sources close to the "recontra" leader, a colleague of Baldivia known as "Mario Loco" reportedly has also insinuated through an emissary that he would like to discuss demobilization.

According to revelations made to Baldivia by "Camaneca's" second in command, some "recontra" groups from the so-called "avengers" [revanchistas] have begun to call Baldivia a "traitor" due to his public decision to negotiate the disarmament of his troops.

Baldivia noted he is stipulating that the first conditions for disarmament be assurance, safety, and economic aid so his men can work and be incorporated into society.

Baldivia—who was also a member of the "Recontra" Commanders Council—stated his belief that the leaders of the demobilized contingents to date "have not known how to negotiate and therefore have not given their men a better opportunity to be incorporated into society."

Baldivia stressed that, up to the present, his troops have been patrolling the Rio Cua and Rio Blanco area of Matagalpa Department but have not been conducting military activities.

Baldivia did not want to give a precise date for his demobilization, arguing that "it depends on how far the government goes in meeting his demands."

Abruptly Leaves Negotiations

PA0902025392 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
8 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] Recontra leader Francisco Baldivia, alias "Dimas," refused to sign the demobilization agreements on 7 February without explaining the reasons for his

sudden decision. The recontra leader, visibly angry, left with his lieutenants for an unknown destination.

Government Minister Carlos Hurtado was astonished. "I hope this is only a temporary position," he said to the few journalists who waited outside the Santa Martha Church. "I was surprised by his attitude," Hurtado added.

Everything seemed to be "going along fine" last night until "Dimas" got up from the negotiating table, leaving behind an astonished government delegation. No one explained the reason for the departure. Nevertheless, sources close to the commission told BARRICADA that the recontra leader "asked for too many things," including enormous amounts of medicine, food, milk, boots, and other products.

"We were about to reach a consensus but, unfortunately, Commander Dimas decided at the last minute he would not sign the agreement," Deputy Finance Minister Leonel Rodriguez stated. "We hope he will reconsider his position," he added.

Hurtado asked the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's delegate, Monsignor Montenegro, to note the recontra leader's stubborn attitude. The negotiations will reportedly be resumed on 11 February in Tomatoya.

Recontras, Recompas Refuse To Sign Agreement

PA1002014192 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] A document signed by two recompa leaders, who on 8 February in Esteli refused to ratify their disarmament before government authorities, underscores the allegation that ranking officers of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] are seizing land assigned by the government to demobilized EPS soldiers.

The recompas, members of the self-styled National Armed Self-Defense Movement [Movimiento de Auto-defensa Nacional en Armas], requested in its communique an opportunity to renegotiate their demobilization with the government in a fair manner.

EL NUEVO DIARIO reported on its front page on 9 February that a brash remark by Deputy Finance Minister Leonel Rodriguez, who described the recontras as illiterate peasants, caused them to refuse to sign the disarmament agreement between government and recontra representatives in the north.

Recontra leader Dimas Tigrillo is asking for \$15,000 for himself and each of his lieutenants, \$10,000 for his second level lieutenants, \$5,000 for those who follow in rank, and no less than \$1,000 for his rank and file soldiers. Dimas said he has approximately 1,500 men in his ranks.

Government Minister Carlos Hurtado says he will meet again with Tigrillo on 11 February.

German Minister Praises Chamorro Administration

PA0802042492 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Report by Erica Ramirez]

[Text] On leaving the country, Carl-Dieter Spranger, German foreign cooperation minister, expressed his respect for the work done by President Violeta de Chamorro and her administration to consolidate the peace process and economic progress.

The German cooperation minister reiterated his country's desire to cooperate with Nicaragua. He said there will be chances to increase aid in the coming years. He made the statement after learning, during his three-day visit, the country's situation and current needs.

[Begin Spranger recording, in German with simultaneous Spanish translation] I can but encourage the government to continue the process of a social market economy toward democracy and a state of law and to continue this process under the present difficult conditions.

We will do all we can to reduce the burden of the legacy left by the previous regime, particularly in the economic area. [end recording]

The economic, social, and technological backwardness of the former German Democratic Republic [GDR] represents the main problems of German reunification but will in no way affect cooperation with Third World countries, the German cooperation minister explained.

[Begin Spranger recording, in German with simultaneous Spanish translation] We need millions of German marks in investments to overcome the backwardness in the GDR, but we are on the right track and we have already begun our economic and social takeoff. I am confident that the reunited Germany can increase its future cooperation with developing countries. [end recording]

The German minister is on his way to El Salvador to study the possibility of resuming aid to that country following the signing of the peace accord.

Panama

Cruz Denies Ordering Herrera's Arrest

PA1002223292 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 10 Feb 92 p 1a

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz said he did not order the arrest of Eduardo Herrera as part of an indictment on terrorist acts perpetrated several weeks ago. He admitted, however, that the retired soldier is part of that and other similar investigations.

Cruz made this statement in a note addressed to Supreme Court Magistrate Jose Manuel Faundes in which he reacts to a petition for habeas corpus filed on Herrera's behalf.

The attorney general admitted that on 6 February he ordered Herrera transferred to National Police headquarters to be investigated by that branch of the Public Force.

Cruz pointed out that the Attorney General's Office issued an order to transfer, not an arrest order, for Herrera. He added that Article 21 of the Constitution gives the police 24 hours to complete an investigation, after which the individual involved must be turned over to the proper authorities or returned to his previous judicial situation.

The attorney general stated that this police investigation pertains to terrorist acts using explosive devices that caused damage, disturbed public order, and sought to destabilize the national government.

Cruz pointed out that there is a file against Herrera on sedition charges at the Sixth Court of Chiriqui, which granted Herrera house arrest. The person in charge of this court repealed that order on 7 February, and that action led to the soldier's arrest.

Sixth Court Judge Ariel Jaramillo repealed Eduardo Herrera's house arrest based on statements by two members of the National Police, who told the attorney general that the retired soldier is allegedly involved in acts to destabilize Panama in violation of the terms of a house arrest ruled in his favor May 1991.

The authorities last week revealed a so-called "Operation Little Fat Man," which allegedly sought to eliminate President Guillermo Endara.

Former Officer Endorses Dialogue With Government
PA1002035992 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA
in Spanish 9 Feb 92 p 1A

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] A group of Panamanian military officers proposed a dialogue with President Guillermo Endara's government to solve some problems being faced by members of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

Major Humberto Macea, former chief of police in the canal zone and a participant in the coup against General Manuel Noriega in March 1988, proposed a "judicious dialogue" between the military and the government to establish "clear rules" and adequate respect.

The officer opposed the use of terrorist acts, arguing that violence will only beget more violence. He added that he doubts any coup plans will triumph in Panama.

Macea criticized the government's mistake of failing to offer "alternatives" to the military and failing to adopt timely decisions to prevent problems.

The former chief of police in the canal zone said that, for example, certain comrades have yet to receive their vacation pay, and the procedure to submit retirement papers is very slow.

Former FDP Executive Secretary Julian Melo said he and other former soldiers met with Luis Guillermo Casco Arias, director of the National Lottery and secretary general of MOLIRENA [National Liberal Republican Movement], in September to review the problems they faced when submitting their retirement papers.

Melo said Carco Arias took some notes, but, unfortunately, the soldiers failed to receive any reply from the government. He denied that officers who participated in the meeting have any connection with the terrorist acts now attributed to Colonel Eduardo Herrera (retired).

Melo recommended that the government appoint a commission to discuss the military officers' situation.

Casco Arias made a statement to Radio Lider and confirmed that he had received an informal invitation in September to learn about the problems that afflict unemployed military officers.

Carlos Arias explained that his participation in the meeting was not on an official basis. He revealed that the military brought up labor problems and delays with their applications for vacation and retirement pay.

The MOLIRENA secretary general said the incorporation of these military officers into civilian life will be somewhat traumatic—above all for those who are used to certain advantages.

Luis Guillermo Casco Arias condemned the use of violence to solve any problem, because the real goal would be the abolition of Panamanian democracy.

The government leader claimed he knows nothing about the possible participation of certain politicians in the coup plans that are attributed to Eduardo Herrera. He said that, in the hypothetical case that this were true, those persons are "psychiatric" cases that require medical help.

EL PANAMA AMERICA tried to interview other former FDP and National Police officers, but they said they were afraid their retirement plans would be disrupted if they made statements.

The soldiers, accustomed to using rifles, are now engaged in entirely different activities. One sells corrugated cardboard, another one started a beauty shop, and many others pine for the olive green uniform.

Existence of Subversive Groups Investigated*PA1002003992 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Feb 92 p A-1**[Article by James Aparicio]*

[Text] Security organizations are investigating the existence of three alleged subversive groups called M-20 [20 December Movement], Torrijist Resistance, and Torrijist Movement for National Liberation (MTLN), composed of former soldiers, current members of the Public Force, and civilians. A high-ranking government source made this announcement on 8 February.

The existence of the three organizations has been recognized separately by President Guillermo Endara, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, and National Police Chief Oswaldo Fernandez.

The M-20 has been the most publicized seditious group of the past two years. It has claimed responsibility for approximately 20 attacks and dozens of telephoned bomb threats that have resulted in false alarms. A declaration of principles seized from an alleged M-20 member revealed that the group seeks to reinstate a national Torrijist army and to attain power through an armed struggle.

An investigation by the Attorney General's Office reported that the M-20 and the MTLN are in their organizational phase and have the support of former members of the extinct Macho de Monte, Two Thousand, and Peace Battalions, elite battalions of the former Panama Defense Forces. The authorities believe civilian leftists and former members of the Dignity Battalions are linked to those subversive organizations.

National Police Chief Oswaldo Fernandez confirmed that the Torrijist Resistance has sent hundreds of clandestine notes to officers and members of the Public Force, asking them to rebel against the current government. Since 9 January the security organizations have been in a state of alert in light of the wave of terrorist attacks in the capital. Former Public Force chief Eduardo Herrera was arrested on 6 February and charged with plotting to overthrow and assassinate President Guillermo Endara with the support of five active duty policemen.

Vice President Ford Addresses Nation on Debt*PA0802032992 Panama City Radio and Television Network in Spanish 0006 GMT 7 Feb 92*

[Speech by Guillermo Ford, second vice president and minister of planning and economic policy, in Panama City; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow citizens: When the constitutional government of the Republic of Panama took over, we accepted the inevitable responsibility, with the Panamanian people, of an inherited heavy burden of foreign debt and an internal debt of approximately \$6 billion. It was a

difficult task, not only to find the resources and the support necessary to safeguard the country's interests, but to find the mechanisms that would allow us to ease this heavy burden without turning our backs on the solutions all Panamanians are justly demanding.

In January 1990, his excellency the president of the Republic addressed the nation and formally promised on behalf of all Panamanians to make valid his words and commitment to pay as much of the inherited heavy debt burden as possible. It was neither generated nor created by the current government, nor was it approved by the Panamanian people.

This long pilgrimage was divided into various stages. The first was the negotiation of an economic program, which—I am pleased to reiterate—was prepared totally by Panamanians and later negotiated with the international financing institutions [IFT's]. Some say it was imposed by the IFT's. Others say we did not have to reorganize the national economy to take it down the path that will bring peace, progress, and tranquillity in a stable and permanent manner.

Other countries have chosen not to pay. Not honoring commitments, even though one did not make them, is irresponsible behavior. President Endara's government and his cabinet team made a decision that—as the president has said—was not easy but preserved the Panamanian people's dignity.

The economic program has been initiated and is being implemented. Gradually we will comply with the program, which has also received some constructive criticism. We like criticism. I must take this opportunity to say that, regarding the economic program, we are going to safeguard all the country's economic groups, be they agricultural, industrial, service, or any other sector. Nobody will be able to accuse the current government of attacking any of the sectors or of surprising them. We will work together, shoulder to shoulder, so each group—through adequate protection—will gradually find the levels that will allow us to compete with the markets around us and markets beyond Latin American borders.

We also found that the grave inheritance and the heavy burden of foreign debt with the IFT's—and let us clarify that there is a separation of the debt with private banks—did not allow us access to new credits the country needed so much for investments, not to squander. That is why we chose to confront that debt. We will explain our approach in figures and details so the community will know how much we have paid, with what we have paid, and what we have solved in doing so.

Finally, the important thing is that, with the easing of that heavy burden, of that debt—which, I repeat, was created by the previous regime—the Panamanian people will courageously tell the world that they are a dignified people who know how to meet their commitments.

Allow me to show you in these charts some details of the operations.

The debt to the IFT's amounted to \$645.8 million, divided as follows: to the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank], \$167.6 million; the International Fund for Agriculture, \$4.9 million; the IMF, \$253.2 million; and the World Bank, \$220.1 million. That was the amount Panama owed in overdue payments on the loans acquired by the former regime: loans the regime stopped paying as of 1987. It was left for the Panamanian people as a heavy inheritance of the dictatorship and misuse of funds.

Where did we get the funds to pay these IFT's? With funds from our regular income, duly included in the national budget, that in 1992 contributed \$103.8 million. As was said from the beginning by the Endara government, the Republic of Panama withheld from the dictatorship's frozen funds \$134 million that were applied to paying these overdue payments.

The Republic of Panama has been granted a short term financing of \$132 million. I will explain later that in the next 60 days this figure of \$132 million will be recovered; we will provide the source from where we will recover this \$132 million.

The U.S. Government, in its \$437 million aid package to Panama, earmarked \$130 million, which has already been paid to the IFT's. The U.S. Government contributed with a \$143 million stopgap loan to Panama, which has also been paid. France donated \$3 million to Panama. On behalf of the government and the president, I want to publicly thank the countries that have donated these funds to make up the \$645.8 million debt, which we canceled last week.

Let us describe Panama's efforts: The donation of the \$645.8 million package makes up 20.6 percent of the total. I repeat, the United States donated \$130 million, France \$3 million. The amount refinanced is \$42.6 million; we got a U.S. stopgap loan of \$143 million and short-term financing by Panama of \$132 million. These, I repeat, are the funds we are going to recover in the next 60 days.

Of the frozen dictatorship funds, \$134 million represents 20.7 percent. The country's net effort with current government funds amounted to \$103.8 million.

The Paris Club, which is totally separate from the IFT's—these are loans received from different friendly countries that also fell into arrears beginning in 1987. That renegotiation took place in 1990 and last week, according to the agreements, we retired the debt. Here we have listed all the countries that have made loans to the Republic of Panama and the amounts each of these countries have been paid. The debt, which has also been taken into account in the country's 1992 general budget, amounted to \$39.9 million.

That means that Panama has totally canceled all its bilateral debt with the various countries. We are now in a position of mutual respect with these friendly countries.

Here we see the access that Panama will have to financial resources from international organizations and bilateral sources. The total, and I must speak to you very clearly—I emphasize the word access—will be \$880 million during the 1992-1993 period. The World Bank has committed an economic recovery loan of \$120 million. In addition, it provides for loans of up to \$100 million for infrastructure work: hospitals, roads, schools, and many types of social work that Panama requires. The IDB will fund the \$120-million program to reform public enterprises and will provide loans for projects of up to \$132 million, including the renovation of public enterprises; for example, the National Water and Sanitation Institute, the National Institute of Telecommunications, the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, and all other public utilities. There will also be a technical cooperation loan of \$9.3 million. The IMF is providing \$174.7 million, which includes a stabilization loan of \$125.5 million and a contingency and financial compensation loan of \$49.2 million.

Here is something very important. As part of the U.S. aid package to which I referred, there was a figure of \$84 million, subject to approval by the IFT's. By paying the full amount in arrears, Panama will receive \$84 million, a U.S. Government donation, through the USAID agreement.

I am pleased to inform the citizenry in general that the illustrious Japanese Government has confirmed in writing it is jointly financing with the World Bank a soft loan worth \$100 million, under extraordinary conditions. We should recognize and appreciate this effort by the illustrious Japanese Government.

What does this mean? This is not a dance of millions; it has a background of stability, security, and prudence.

If we take half the loan from the World Bank, plus half of the loan from the IDB stabilization fund, plus half of the financial contingency and compensation funds, we get the \$143 million to cancel the bridge loan from the U.S. Government. We will not owe a single cent to the U.S. Government after we make this payment.

Regarding note number two, the \$100 million from the World Bank and \$132 million from the IDB, we have them here.

Panama will present projects to these banking institutions and, after the projects have been presented by the cabinet ministers, they will be approved. These projects will be dedicated exclusively to social investment and never to finance operating expenses, as was done during the dictatorship. They used to ask for loans to finance regular expenses. The president of the Republic has ordered that these loans be invested by the cabinet ministers and the managers of the autonomous institutions exclusively in social works, that is to say, investments.

For the Japanese Government's loan, 50 percent... [pauses]...I would like to take this opportunity to publicly

recognize the illustrious Government of Taiwan, which has granted us two loans totaling \$40 million under very favorable conditions. We will use the loan we got from Taiwan, which is a direct loan without conditions for the Republic of Panama, and 50 percent of the disbursement to be made by the Japanese Government—a direct loan to the Republic of Panama—to repay the bridge loan for \$132 million granted temporarily to the Panamanian Government. In other words, an apparently complicated operation, but it sends a very clear message: Panama has received the understanding of friendly countries, a donation from the United States, a donation from France, a loan from the Japanese Government, and a loan from the Government of Taiwan. With all this support—because the IFT's do not allow refinancing, we had to pay all the overdue debts—we have indeed requested new loans. These new loans will cover the current loans from the IFT's. In a few words, all the overdue debts have been deferred through loans with very long terms so the country is not asphyxiated by an extraordinary financial burden such as the one I just mentioned.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell my Panamanian brothers and sisters that it is indeed a sacrifice, as the president has said. Paying debts is not pleasant, and paying other people's debts is even less pleasant. But we are living in a country of decent people, people who have rediscovered themselves, people who want democracy. We are a people, not only a government. That is why I would like to take this pleasant opportunity to tell all my fellow citizens to invest all our efforts, all our capabilities, so in 1992 we can all walk the same path. May the world see us as a united people. May the world recognize us as a decent country that is paying its debts.

We are not haggling anything away from the Panamanian people. We are making sacrifices, but the country's

overall budget contains important investment items aimed at taking care of social aspects. [20-second break in reception]

The time has come for all of us to rebuild the country. We are going to continue to take firm steps that are sometimes not understood and on other occasions are justly criticized. We do not intend to be infallible. We have the virtues of honesty and sincerity to tell the Panamanian people our opinion of what should be done. We want to listen to their observations and continue.

Panamanian people, let us live in peace. Let us invite all those who in one way or another feel discouraged with the democratic process. Let us give them a hand. Governments are transitory, people are permanent.

I am making a fervent call to all my fellow citizens—and with the permission of the president, I am making this call on his behalf—to once and for all take advantage of this sacrifice. Let us get to work, Panamanians. Agricultural sector, do not fear. Industrial sector, support. Commercial sector, construction sector, let us look at those who do not have anything. Let us not look at those who have and can defend themselves. That is the mission of the government, and we can be found walking this path.

No matter how bitter the medicine may be, we have to take it. The only thing that should be avoided is irresponsibility. We have to turn our backs on the past because otherwise we have no future. I would like to thank the Panamanian people for their understanding. We are open to criticism. We are going to continue down this path. I want to publicly thank my cabinet colleagues and the honorable Legislative Assembly for their support and understanding, because it is worthwhile to fight for this people. May God bless Panama and all Panamanians. [applause]

Argentina

Articles Assesses Suspended Nuclear Sale to Iran

PY0702233692 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1741 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Special article for NA: "The INVAP, Applied Research Institute, Case" by Jose Maria Monzon]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Feb (NA)—The government of Carlos Menem seems to be determined to stop, once and for all, every transfer of nuclear technology to countries that are unwilling to accept the thorough mechanisms of control established by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The United States, Great Britain, and France exert great influence within the IAEA.

The weakened Argentine nuclear program—which was brought to a standstill by the democratic government of Raul Alfonsin—still is yielding benefits today because either the National Commission for Atomic Energy [CNEA] or some of its subsidiary companies are signing quite a few sales contracts with Third World countries to provide them with technology and equipment.

One of these contracts was signed by the Applied Research Institute [INVAP], which is supported by the CNEA and the Rio Negro Provincial Government, which consists of nearly 200 experts and engineers who are graduates from the Balseiro Institute of San Carlos de Bariloche.

INVAP made headlines in recent days when it was learned that U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman had sent a letter to the Argentine Foreign Ministry to convey the U.S. Government's concern over the possibility of INVAP selling nuclear material to the Iranian Government. The United States considers that the sale of nuclear elements, be they tools or instruments, can contribute to closing some gaps in the complicated process of making an atomic bomb. Many Western leaders would lose sleep over the Iranians having an atomic bomb.

The controversy is focused primarily on the fact that the material INVAP was going to sell to Iran can be used for both peaceful and military purposes. This was the idea conveyed to Foreign Minister Guido di Tella by Bernard Aronson, the U.S. assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, during a meeting they held in Washington on 22 January.

Aronson was endorsing the content of the letter Todman had sent a few days earlier, and he was adding another link to the already long chain of pressures exerted by the United States to discourage Argentina from undertaking independent nuclear development.

Upon realizing that Argentine nuclear and missile development always has been an irksome subject for Washington, one can understand why Foreign Minister Di Tella is determined to denuclearize Argentine foreign

policy. Di Tella is in favor of a traditional, unrestricted alignment with the United States.

Despite his inclination to submit to U.S. demands, Di Tella asked Aronson what compensation Argentina should expect in return for suspending its sale of nuclear elements to those countries regarded as unreliable by the White House. As he said time and again, Aronson told Di Tella that Argentina should not expect anything immediately and that, in the long run, a decision like this will pave the way for good understanding.

In fact, Di Tella's request for compensation was just a belated act of boastfulness because the temporary suspension of atomic elements to Iran had already been decided.

The Argentine Government also attempted to placate Rio Negro Governor Horacio Masaccesi by noting that the INVAP sale would be feasible if the Iranian Government signed a number of IAEA safeguards within 40 days. The truth is that Iran already had signed these safeguards under the government of Reza Pahlavi, and what the Argentine Government is asking for now is that the current fundamentalist Moslem government ratify these commitments.

Both the CNEA and its subsidiary companies have signed sales contracts with other countries considered unreliable by the U.S. Government. If one should expect these sales also to be blocked, as was done with the Iranian contract, it is proper to ask how far Argentina is willing to go in dispensing with the large income it could get from these sales and how it will finance its weakened nuclear plan without foreign sales, with only an increasingly meager budget allocated by the national government.

Menem Reportedly Wants Dossiers on Officials

PY0902221292 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 9 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] (NA)—According to reliable sources, President Carlos Menem has asked government intelligence agencies to prepare a complete list of property, living habits, religious beliefs and family members of all government officials from undersecretaries to ministers. Such files were the responsibility of the intelligence agencies for many years until the government of Raul Alfonsin decided to abandon the practice because the information was often produced "tendentiously." Presidential advisers supposedly recommended the personal files due to the recent wave of corrupt activity amongst members of Menem's government.

Cavallo on Menem's Possible Reelection, Economy

PY0802125492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2246 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Feb (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo has expressed explicit support for President Carlos Menem's reelection and for the constitutional reform to make it possible. Cavallo held a news

conference this afternoon, one day after his return from a 10-day tour of three continents.

"It would be good if a president that can change the country the way President Menem is changing Argentina could govern for many more years. This is an issue that the Argentine people will have to decide," Cavallo said, adding that Menem's reelection "would help give continuity to the deep transformations in the country."

During the one-hour news conference, Cavallo said that registered bonds that pensioners will receive as payment for the debt that the social security system owes them will be eligible for 1992 privatizations and the purchase of shares during 1993 that will initially not be valued below 40 percent of their nominal value.

Cavallo said he supports the idea of gradually lowering Central Bank withholdings of bank deposits—as was suggested by former minister Roberto Alemann—to increase their loan portfolios and prevent private companies from selling dollars to face seasonal needs such as the December bonus. However, he said that the mechanism will expand the money supply, as is done by the purchase of dollars and the corresponding liberation of pesos that is carried out by the Central Bank and that was objected to by Alemann.

Cavallo said he will insist before Congress that it approve the payment of the December bonus in installments (it has already been approved by the Senate) and that it pass the tax reform "to eliminate exceptions and discriminatory practices against companies employing a lot of labor, to allow the economy to operate with more clarity, and to begin the process to reduce the down payment on taxes in the future."

Cavallo said during the news conference that the purchasing power of salaries has increased by 30 percent from the beginning of the convertibility plan up to 31 December 1991. Cavallo said the improvement will continue in general terms during the year, although in a more moderate way, thanks to the economic growth estimated between 6 to 7 percent of the gross domestic product.

Cavallo said that any salary increase must be linked with an increase in productivity, and he estimated that it was "easier" to measure the change in productivity through negotiations by company than through negotiations per area of activity.

Cavallo rejected the argument of those who proposed new salary negotiations because the cost of living increased by 3 percent in January. "We do not have to increase nominal salaries just because people take trips and pay 78 percent more for hotels; it does not make sense," Cavallo said.

The economy minister confirmed that despite the increase in the cost of living, the letter of intent will be sent next week, with the figures agreed to at the end of

January that anticipate a 1992 fiscal surplus of \$3 billion, not including privatizations.

Cavallo announced that the first month of the year closed with a primary surplus of 150 million pesos.

Regarding the privatization of Aerolineas Argentinas, Cavallo said that the investment plan presented by Iberia [Spanish Airlines] and its partners is being analyzed by the transportation secretariat. Regarding the foreign debt titles delivered as payment, Cavallo said: "We understand they are good titles, but there are formal areas that must be improved, and we are working to overcome problems in those areas."

Cavallo rejected the idea that the attempted coup d'etat in Venezuela was linked with the economic adjustment plan in that country. "It has nothing to do with the Brady Plan or the stabilization plan. What happened is that some Latin American armed forces continue to be completely out of touch with today's international reality and think they have the right to replace the people's will," Cavallo said.

Brazil

Rezek 'Comfortable' at Ministry; Answers Critics

PY1002193492 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Feb 92 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek by ESTADO AGENCY journalist Pamela Nunez; place and date not given]

[Text] [Nunez] Is it true that the Planalto Palace machine has placed you on the front burner?

[Rezek] We live in a presidential system of government. The government conducts itself in accordance with what is established by its sole leader, the president. Before anything else, therefore, I would like to reject the idea that the Planalto Palace is doing anything at all. I am certainly aware of the president's feelings. As for other people, I do not believe so, but there is talk that one runs this risk, particularly at the Foreign Ministry.

[Nunez] Why?

[Rezek] This is an institution that harbors many excellent people, and there is, of course, great competition.

[Nunez] Do you believe you enjoy a comfortable position in the government?

[Rezek] I am certain I fulfill my duties in line with the guidelines imparted by the president and that I have not lost what I have enjoyed since I was a member of the court: a public image that does not and will not discredit the government at any time. Viewed in this light, I feel comfortable in the government.

[Nunez] Are you annoyed at all?

[Rezek] Yes, I am. The atmosphere of speculation—regardless of what the president may want to achieve—forces people to spend more energy on secondary issues rather than concentrate on the most important ones.

[Nunez] Does this atmosphere disrupt your work?

[Rezek] No, it does not. But when I see that sometimes these rumors are in flagrant opposition to the facts and when these rumors are critical of me, I tend to believe that all this has to do with foreign policy matters. But if rumors can turn facts upside down, this can also be true in other cases, such as in the integrity of people. I believe that the criticism made against others for different reasons may have been unjust.

[Nunez] Are you referring to former Health Minister Alcení Guerra?

[Rezek] Exactly. Undoubtedly, this possibility torments someone who was a Federal Supreme Court [STF] member.

[Nunez] The Foreign Ministry's performance in recent incidents, however, has been criticized by the president. In the case involving the downing of the Brazilian plane by the Venezuelans, he allegedly claimed he was informed about the incident through the press.

[Rezek] No, no. I was not here, and it would not have been possible. I know that there was talk that the president was possibly annoyed over how the Foreign Ministry handled the Venezuelan issue. To end this line of thinking, I informed the president about the facts involving this issue in chronological order when I returned to the country.

[Nunez] But did he make any complaints?

[Rezek] Yes, he did. But I immediately made some comments and explained what had occurred during my absence.

[Nunez] This is not the first time the Foreign Ministry was slow in making decisions. Why does this happen?

[Rezek] There is something worth noting. Diplomatic work is based on specific characteristics that cannot be discarded from diplomatic activity. There is an inclination not to run risks by adopting hasty gestures or issuing harsh words regarding issues that may undermine bilateral ties. This is a characteristic of the diplomatic style that is followed by all diplomatic corps members.

[Nunez] But is there a slow reaction or not? For example, on the eve of the Gulf War, it was necessary to resort to Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, the Brazilian ambassador in London, to resolve the issue concerning the Brazilian hostages in Iraq.

[Rezek] I find it unbelievable that the press has mentioned the issue with Iraq as one of the factors that have undermined the foreign minister's actions. A cabinet member cannot be everywhere at the same time. He has

to act through his assistants. One of these assistants, one of the most renowned assistants is precisely Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima. This was the foreign minister's most sensible of choices. The success of my subordinates is also my own success.

[Nunez] But Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima also was summoned to resolve the misunderstanding caused by the incident involving the article on Fernando Collor published by the SUNDAY TIMES magazine.

[Rezek] Perhaps presidential spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva can give you a better explanation on this issue. I did speak with the presidential spokesman in this regard once. He asked me if a harsh response would be more appropriate. I told him that it would not. The most appropriate response would be to undertake a court action through the contracting of lawyers. These then were the instructions imparted to our ambassador in London.

[Nunez] Have you ever regretted having accepted a government post?

[Rezek] I was not used to so much exposure. I am now suffering from this exposure, because I am holding a government post at a difficult time. But I am well aware that, had I rejected the offer to be a cabinet member and remained as STF chairman, I would not be in an easy position.

[Nunez] Sir, are you hurt?

[Rezek] I would have to identify those who are criticizing me in order to be hurt, and I am unable to do this. I am aware that the press treated me better when I was a judge. It seems that, at that time, my work was more appreciated. Today, I have to cope with difficulties more frequently. Certain articles, particularly those written in an arrogant tone, show that some authors dislike me.

Chile

Cuban Consul on Resumption of Bilateral Relations

PY1002133492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Ramon Perez Yero, the new Cuban consul in Chile, has stated that pending issues between Cuba and Chile will be resolved within the framework of this new stage of relations between the two countries. After more than 17 years of suspended diplomatic relations, Perez Yero expressed satisfaction over the possibility of improved bilateral relations.

He said: We have replied to the actions conducted against Cuba. We will solve our problems through our own efforts.

As for the existence of political prisoners in Cuba, he said that the revolution has never opposed moral principles and that Cuba has never repressed religion. Although Cuba no longer receives aid from the former

Soviet Union, Perez Yero has stated that Cubans have never felt alone because many have expressed solidarity.

Preparation for Treaty Talks With Peru Discussed

PY1102020492 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Peru and Chile will begin talks in March to agree on matters still pending from the Treaty of 1929. Our country is trying to adopt a position on the subject. We have a report by Rafael Illanes:

[Begin relay] The local committee members, who are in charge of formulating a proposal on the matters still pending from the Chilean-Peruvian Treaty of 1929, met this afternoon in an effort to reach an agreement on the position Chile will adopt on the subject. The Chilean position will be discussed with Peru at the bilateral talks that will begin in March.

The pending subjects are the administration of the dock and railway station that were built in Arica for use by Peru. Construction already has been completed, but the facilities have not been used yet.

Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas has referred to the committee's work:

[Begin Vargas recording] What we now want is to agree on a national position. We expect the committee to meet almost all week. We will try to find a definition on the position that Chile will adopt. I do not want to release any early report, and I will make no statements, now or during the negotiations, about the formula we will adopt.

As I said, the success of negotiation depends on several factors, among them secrecy. [end recording]

Vargas referred to the issue after reporting on the results of the last meeting of foreign ministers of the Group of Rio, which was held in Caracas over the weekend. During the meeting, the ministers strongly rejected the coup attempt that took place in Venezuela last week. The ministers reiterated that any aggression against democracy in a Latin American or Caribbean country amounts to an attack against the principles of solidarity among the states of the Americas.

Vargas said there is no more room for governments that are not democratic. He added that the Caracas meeting was a meeting of victory because of the failure of the coup that a group of military officers staged last week. [end relay]

Cooperation in Japanese Satellite Launch Reported

PY0702212292 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Chilean scientists will have an interesting experience in four days: The University of Chile's Center for Space Studies will cooperate in the launching of a Japanese satellite.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Sandra Gamboa] No one would believe that Perdeuhe [not further identified] also will participate in the space race, but it will, although indirectly.

At 2250 on 10 February, a remote sensing satellite will be launched from the southern Japanese island of Tanagashima [as heard]. With a network of Japanese stations, the University of Chile's Center for Space Studies will support the satellite's launching. To this extent, the Perdeuhe equipment has been complemented by certain systems supplied by the Japanese National Space Development Agency [NASDA], which also sent to Chile four specialized engineers who will work closely with 10 Chilean colleagues the night of the launching. Let us see, however, how the Chilean station can help in the launching. (Amiaki Narita), chief of the mission, explained:

[(Narita), in English] This station only confirms the conditions of the satellite separation from the vehicle and also can receive several kinds of vehicle flight data and the [word indistinct] of the station.

[Gamboa] This is key information, because after being simultaneously processed in Perdeuhe and the Japanese island, the information will determine the rocket's orbital path. This makes clear why this experience will be very useful to our scientists.

[Eduardo Diaz, Center for Space Studies executive director] We still are technologically updated and want to remain so. This requires money and engineering capacity. The engineering capacity of the Center for Space Studies is again being tested in this mission.

[Gamboa] You will ask: What does the satellite do? Well, in its two years of useful life, the satellite will obtain high-quality images of the earth's surface. No commercial use, however, will be given to them. They will be used to study mining, sea, and coast resources; in forestry and agriculture; to analyze the environment; and even to prevent disasters.

The joint work between the University of Chile's Center for Space Studies and the Japanese NASDA does not end here. They already have signed contracts for the launching of new satellites in 1993 and 1994. [end recording]

Intelligence Consultative Committee Created

PY0802013692 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] In creating the Intelligence Consultative Committee, the government has formalized the Armed Forces' participation as an advisory institution in the antiterrorism and anticrime struggle. This committee will be directly subordinate to the interior minister.

The Intelligence Consultative Committee, which will act as an advisory organization of the Public Security Council, was installed at La Moneda Palace this

morning. The meeting was presided over by Interior and acting Defense Minister Belisario Velasco and was attended by representatives of the intelligence services, the Armed Forces, and the police, and Public Security Council members. Velasco stated that this committee will address pending issues and noted that he will only evaluate the matters that are discussed.

[Begin recording] [Velasco] The participation of the Armed Forces in a consultative committee to deal with matters on terrorism, criminal actions, and violence has been made official. I reiterate that this procedure has been adopted in all modern states for some years now. We believe that Chile needs all its intelligence capacity in order to make a correct analysis and evaluation of what is happening.

[Unidentified reporter] Is it possible for the intelligence services to conduct further operations?

[Velasco] Definitely not. Article 90 of the Constitution in this regard is very clear and, furthermore, we live in a state of law. Carabineros and Investigative Police are in charge of investigating and conducting public actions. [end recording]

He denied that the Army Intelligence Directorate [DINE] personnel participated in the negotiations to release Cristian Edwards (EL MERCURIO manager). He said that the DINE only advised the Edwards family. He pointed out that Carabineros and the Investigative Police were in charge of the investigations, because these are the institutions empowered by the Constitution to conduct this type of action.

UDI Criticizes Government on Security Problems

PY0702125692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The UDI [Independent Democratic Union] has stated that the government is creating more bureaucracy but not solving security problems caused by crime and terrorism.

Here is a report by Rosa Alcallaga:

[Begin recording] [Alcallaga] UDI General Secretary Joaquin Lavin has commented on Santiago newspaper reports that the government has established a new public security council to combat terrorism and crime. He said that the government is creating more bureaucracy instead of combating terrorism.

[Lavin] The government is trying to combat crime and terrorism with bureaucracy but no specific results have been achieved yet.

Following the assassination of Senator Jaime Guzman, the government established the Public Security Coordinating Board. This is how the government reacted to this incident. Unfortunately, we are still facing terrorist and criminal actions.

Later, Christian Edwards was kidnapped. Now the government has responded [words indistinct] appointing three or more people. Instead of creating more bureaucracy, we would like the government to react and achieve results. Unfortunately, this has not been the case.

[Alcallaga] Lavin said this after proposing an integrated government action to combat the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] or any other group that uses this name or that is identified as such. In view of this, the UDI asks Aylwin not to grant any new pardons to people connected with the FPMR; to obtain the extradition of Sergio Buschmann, the FPMR spokesman abroad; and [word indistinct] the FPMR for having publicly stated that it will help those involved in terrorist activities. [end recording]

Colombia

Gaviria Addresses World Economic Summit 1 Feb

PA1002014392 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO
in Spanish 2 Feb 92 p 7

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria demanded on 1 February that industrialized countries increase their cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking, saying that only "a handful of countries is working on the problem, even though it concerns the whole world."

The Colombian president addressed more than 150 ministers, political leaders, executives of large multinational corporations, and other participants at the World Economic Summit in Davos, Switzerland.

Gaviria said we must go beyond mere legalities in treating and handling the drug trafficking problem. We must consolidate a new multinational effort in which the community of nations shows its concern for the problems caused by money laundering, gun running, and chemicals used to manufacture drugs.

He referred to the increasing role of the so-called South countries in taking action and making decisions to solve problems that afflict all mankind.

"We cannot possibly talk about drug trafficking without active participation by the South. We cannot possibly solve ecology problems without the South's active participation. Topics that are important at the world level, such as migration, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism, require North-South cooperation," he asserted.

The president emphasized the danger of the North giving in to the temptation of turning international organizations—the United Nations, the UN Security Council, the World Bank, the IMF, among others—into instruments that legitimize unilateral decisions.

"The South must leave behind its rhetoric and ideological considerations to establish a pragmatic, interactive relationship that strives to achieve true solutions with industrialized states."

Gaviria said the South is not a homogeneous, underdeveloped area because it includes countries like Colombia, which has raised its development level. He emphasized the need for these countries to assume a bigger responsibility and solidarity toward other Third World countries.

"The search for a new international order based on an international market economy, shared democracy, and respect for human rights must not negate the fact that there is poverty in the world. There are thousands of millions of human beings living in poverty, and the world cannot forget them. The end of communism cannot be considered the end of poverty. Those nations need help and solidarity. While nations like Colombia need access to other markets, others will not survive without the rest of the world's support. A new international order cannot disavow that reality," he emphasized.

Gaviria said expectations about the emergence of a new international order can be defeated, if the process is not spared "a new isolation by certain industrialized countries, since this isolation jeopardizes cooperation and creates a new protectionism that endangers commercial relations."

Minister on Kidnapping Negotiation Policy

PA0802180292 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO
in Spanish 4 Feb 92 pp 1, 10a

["Statement" by Government Minister Humberto De La Calle Lombana "on the kidnapping issue"; place and date not given—quotation marks are as published]

[Text] With regard to the letter sent to the president of the Republic by Alvaro Leyva on the issue of kidnappings, it is necessary to point out the following:

The government has always demanded, unconditionally and immediately, the release of all persons kidnapped by the guerrillas. The government believes that such serious crimes cannot be the subject of negotiation.

In a separate part of a document dated 10 November 1991, which was partially quoted by Mr. Leyva, the following is read:

"Kidnapping: the Government Position:

The release of all persons kidnapped by the guerrillas must be immediate, and there is no further need for additional proposals by the government.

As is obvious, the unconditional release of the victims must precede any agreement by the commission in charge of clarifying kidnapping cases in which the perpetrators have still not been identified. In fact, the role of the commission will be limited to resolving those cases that, once the release has been obtained, are still open to discussion. At the same time, it is very difficult to pursue

any serious verification on this issue amid all the violence and attacks against civilian, as well as military authorities.

This point was clearly noted by all sides in a paragraph of the document that was also omitted:

"It is evident that a cease-fire agreement must be considered as a whole and that each of the elements are definitely linked to each other in the formula chosen as a whole by the respective parties."

The government reiterates that kidnapping is an atrocious crime that cannot be justified, and those who are interested in the topic, like Mr. Leyva, would greatly serve the tranquility of all Colombian citizens if they could persuade the guerrillas to understand this.

Signed, Humberto De La Calle Lombana

Ecuador

Government Decrees State of National Emergency

PA0802200692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0859 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Quito, 8 Feb (NOTIMEX)—On the night of 7 February, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja Cevallos decreed a state of national emergency due to electrical power shortages and ordered new measures to face the crisis.

The drastic measure was imposed as a result of the situation that arose from the lack of rain in the eastern part of Ecuador, where the country's most important hydroelectric power station is situated. This power station supplies electricity for 80 percent of Ecuador.

According to the document signed by Borja, the state of emergency will be in effect throughout the country until the situation that arose from the virtual shutdown of the power plants can be overcome.

The prolonged drought in Ecuador's southern region—the most serious drought in the past 30 years—made it necessary to establish daily energy rationing on a national basis from 0600 to 1300. The rationing program, which is about to enter its third week, has caused severe harm to the commercial, tourist, and production sectors, as well as to the population that has settled in the country's urban areas. The presidential resolution of 7 February has called for "social solidarity" to use the "available electric power" in the "most rational" manner, while the problems related to generating electric power continue.

As one of the measures to address the emergency situation, Borja ordered the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit to disburse funds to take care of the needs that have arisen from the energy problem.

Borja ordered a "freeze" on the price of fuel that the state-owned oil company supplies to electric companies

and authorized the "urgent" importation of electrical generators by private enterprises.

He ordered that restaurants, bars, saloons, and nightspots, in general, operate only until 2200. He also ordered that television hours and public lighting, as well as the hours that billboards and building facades are lit, be reduced.

In the decree, Borja's Social Democratic government called for the application of measures to ration electric power and stated that the energy crisis "results from the fact that no precautions were taken in the past."

Borja held his predecessors responsible for setting aside the projects that had been included in the electricity master plan that the government formulated in 1980, as well as for not having taken advantage of the credits that were available for the construction of dams.

Even though the decree is not precise about how long the state of national emergency will be, it is estimated that the lack of rain will prolong the implementation of this measure for at least the next 15 days.

Different sectors of the country, especially the productive sector of Guayaquil—Ecuador's main economic center—asked the government to declare a state of national emergency as the first step in overcoming the crisis.

Paraguay

Ministry Summons German Envoy Over Remarks

PY0702234492 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
7 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] Justice and Labor Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizache met yesterday with President Andres Rodriguez. After the meeting he stated: "The German ambassador's remarks deal with matters outside his jurisdiction and constitute interference in Paraguayan domestic affairs." Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Marcos Martinez Mendieta has summoned German Ambassador Heinz Schneppen to explain his charges that there is corruption in Paraguay.

On 3 February, EC ambassadors accredited in Paraguay held a news conference after the signing of a basic cooperation agreement between the EC and Paraguay. On that occasion, the German ambassador said: "In Europe, people still believe there is corruption in Paraguay, and I think many Paraguayans share this opinion."

These remarks prompted the reaction of Justice and Labor Minister Hugo Estigarribia, who told the media that the German ambassador's remarks constituted interference in Paraguayan domestic affairs and that "Schneppen had stepped out of his jurisdiction." Estigarribia added: "The prevailing freedom of expression allows private individuals to express opinions on the government's moral standards or the lack of them, but

it is not normal for a foreign ambassador to comment on the corruption or lack of moral standards in state organizations."

Estigarribia met President Rodriguez on 6 February. After this meeting, he reiterated that the German ambassador had interfered in matters that were none of his business. He added: "The measures to be implemented are being studied at the government level."

After his meeting with the president, the justice and labor minister went to the Foreign Ministry, where he met Foreign Under Secretary Marcos Martinez Mendieta.

It was reported after the meeting that Martinez Mendieta had summoned Schneppen to meet him at 0800 on 7 February to clarify the ambassador's remarks and the repercussions they may have locally.

The German ambassador uttered his controversial remarks when he was asked about the difficulties that foreign investors may encounter in Paraguay, to which the ambassador replied: "In Europe, people still believe that there is corruption. This is not my opinion but the perception that people have of Paraguay abroad."

Envoy, Deputy Minister Interviewed

PY0702235092 Asuncion RPC Television Network
in Spanish 1515 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] German Ambassador Heinz Schneppen was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this morning.

The German diplomat made remarks that the Paraguayan Government considered inappropriate because they violated the principle of noninterference in domestic affairs. This is what Ambassador Schneppen said after visiting the Foreign Ministry:

[Begin recording, in progress] [Schneppen] ...regarding declarations made by the justice and labor minister. I will report to my government. I already had received precise instructions from my government this morning with respect to this conversation.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the meaning of your statements, Mr. Ambassador?

[Schneppen] I have outlined that my argument—not only on this occasion—has always been the same when answering questions on this topic. There have been many positive and important changes in the last three years. I also have said that abroad, or at least in Europe, there is a perception that certain structures have not changed that much. [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister Marcos Martinez Mendieta also was interviewed after his meeting with the German diplomat. Martinez Mendieta suggested that Schneppen blamed the press for misrepresenting his statements.

[Begin recording] [Martinez Mendieta] I had a meeting with the German ambassador this morning. We reviewed various items of bilateral interest. Of course,

we also talked about press reports on statements he made on different aspects of our national situation.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the Paraguayan Government's position on those statements?

[Martinez Mendieta] We asked him precisely what he meant. We asked him about his exact words, and if the statement reflected his exact opinion.

[Reporter] What did the ambassador say?

[Martinez Mendieta] He said that in some cases the statements were not his exact opinion but that, in other cases, they were his exact opinion.

[Reporter] Was he required to rectify or clarify his words.

[Martinez Mendieta] No, No. We just wanted to find out exactly what he meant, how he viewed the situation.

[Reporter] Did the incident in any way harm Paraguayan-German relations?

[Martinez Mendieta] No. Our relations are correct; they continue to be excellent.

[Reporter] But was the government annoyed by those statements?

[Martinez Mendieta] At the diplomatic level, or at the multilateral level, we always try to smooth over difficulties between countries. We cannot speak about annoyances. [end recording]

Government Plan To Pay Paris Club Debt Viewed

*PY0702022492 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
6 Feb 92 Economic Section p 12*

[Text] The official delegation that will negotiate new payment conditions on our debt, in order to allow the country to pay its arrears on payments to Paris Club creditors, departed for Europe at 1130 yesterday. The delegation will meet formally today with representatives of France, Japan, Spain, Italy, Germany, the United States, and South Africa.

The Paraguayan delegation is made up by Finance Minister Juan Jose Diaz Perez; Central Bank President Jose Enrique Paez; Finance Studies Under Secretary Celso Romero; Luis Ortiz Vely, Central Bank international operations manager; and Pedro Sosa Alvarez, a Central Bank lawyer.

"We are open to all possibilities; our strategy includes several alternatives that we cannot disclose for obvious reasons. Basically, we will continue previous negotiations that include a note the government sent to the Paris Club in January," Diaz Perez said at the airport.

Unofficial sources suggested, however, that Paraguay will offer to pay one third of our arrears this year and divide the remaining into 60 monthly payments. If this is the case, Paraguay would pay \$100 million in 1992 out

of the \$330.4 million of the country's arrears with Paris Club creditor countries. The difference of \$230.4 million would be paid beginning in 1993 at a rate of \$3.8 million per month. Besides, it has been announced that, as a sign of good will, the country will pay all debts that fall due this year.

The amount of \$330.4 million in arrears includes capital and interest up to 31 December 1991. It represents 36 percent of the total debt with this group of creditors, which holds the largest portion of our foreign debt. This group is special because their members are our main creditors, and our arrears with them are the largest due to the moratorium policy adopted by Andres Rodriguez' administration.

The finance minister said before departing that our country cannot hope to receive more favorable conditions during the renegotiation because the country's per capita earning exceeds \$1,000, and the largest concessions are granted to countries whose per capita earnings are less than \$580.

"We cannot ask for discounts because, if we did, we could be certain that we would not receive new loans in the future," Diaz Perez warned. "Would it be convenient to close our doors to a country that has helped us a lot, such as Japan?" the minister asked.

Diaz Perez said that another factor against Paraguay is its high international reserves level, which is equivalent to 10 months of imports (\$973 million), adding that countries that obtain discounts are those that cannot cover even a month of imports with their savings.

Colorado Party Hopefuls for Presidency Listed

*PY0802175092 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
8 Feb 92 p 4*

[Excerpts] Current Congress President Gustavo Diaz de Vivar has stated that the problems facing the Colorado Party, the Congress, and the Constituent Assembly make it necessary to put on hold his undeclared candidacy for president of the nation in the 1993 elections. "We will let things quiet down a bit until April or May, at which time we will be able to make a decision on the subject," he said. [passage omitted]

Two members of the Colorado Party have announced officially that they intend to run in the party elections to nominate its candidate for president of the nation. The two people in question are Enrique Riera (formerly a member of the opposition) and Leandro Prieto Yegros (former unconditional supporter of the ousted dictator Alfredo Stroessner).

Other people are being mentioned as possible presidential hopefuls: Angel R. Seifart (who will first battle for the presidency of the Colorado Party with the support of the Renovator Orthodox Traditionalist faction) and Luis

Maria Argana (currently acting president of the Colorado Party and the leader of the Autonomous Orthodox Traditionalist Movement).

Carlos Romero Pereira is yet another presidential hopeful for 1993, according to a source close to the Autonomous Orthodox Traditionalist faction. The source added that meetings are being held to discuss the promotion of Romero Pereira as a presidential hopeful. [passage omitted]

Roundup on Economic Activity 31 Jan-5 Feb
PY0602204892

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on economic activities in Paraguay from 31 January to 5 February. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

Zoilo Rodas Rodas—president of the National Electric Power Administration [ANDE]—has reported that the German Government has frozen the DM 50 million loan for the electrification of the Chaco region. He added that the German loan has been frozen until the Paraguayan Government solves the foreign debt problem. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 31 Jan 92 p 10)

The Inter-American Development Bank has informed the Paraguayan Government that the \$54 million loan for house construction will be restructured and increased to \$80 million. The increase will be used for building schools, health centers, and parks. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 31 Jan 92 p 10)

The Central Bank has reported that the inflation rate for January was 3.1 percent, compared to 2.1 percent in January 1991. Bank officials indicate that the increased dollar rate, from an average of 1,320 guaranies per dollar in 1991 to 1,440 in January 1992, the high inflation rate in Brazil, and the high value of the Argentine currency were mainly responsible for the increase. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Feb 92 p 11)

Venezuela

Army Restructuring Ordered; Urges Media Prudence

PA1102023492 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Possessing the powers granted to him by the Armed Forces Organic Law, Carlos Andres Perez, president of Venezuela and commander in chief of the national Armed Forces, has preformed his duty by informing the nation that he has ordered Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich to take the necessary steps to restructure the Army, at the levels of garrison commands, great combat units, superior units, staff direction, and operational units.

These directives are aimed only at strengthening military education by providing changes directed at utilizing

resources and at neutralizing the normal negative consequences that could befall the officers who had to endure at their command posts the criminal actions of those who tried to violate the lawful government and the democratic institutions.

These directives are not aimed at prejudging the conduct or the loyalty of the officers being relieved or rotated in their posts. On the contrary, these officers repeatedly have reiterated their willingness to serve, their respect, their loyalty, and their support for the defense of the Constitution and the laws.

Perez stated: As president of all Venezuelans, I call on the media to be prudent in the publication of their reports and commentaries regarding their decisions, and the promotions and changes that are taking place in the heart of the Armed Forces, by emphasizing clarity and truth in the reports, with the purpose of adequately enlightening public opinion during these difficult moments that have endangered democratic institutions and its fundamental value: the liberty that the armed forces has heroically fought for, side by side with our people.

Perez Meets With Media, Removes Censors

PA1102021692 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Report by Ricardo Mateu]

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez met at the La Casona presidential residence with members of the Operational Committee, the Democratic Action [AD] National Executive Committee, and the media. The participants discussed national problems and the most suitable measures to be implemented in the near future.

With regard to freedom of expression, media directors and editors are free to receive, process, and publish the news, taking into account the fact that constitutional guarantees on freedom of expression remain suspended.

Andres de Armas, president of the Press Association [Bloque de Prensa]; Jose Calvo Otero of EL NACIONAL; and Marcel Granier of Radio Caracas Television believe that news directors have enough common sense to report the news without harming the democratic system.

[Begin recording] [De Armas] We have met with the president. He said that as of 10 February the censorship of the media will be lifted. The censors who had been working at private media enterprises will stop going to those news centers as of 10 February. We told the president that we applaud this decision because our country needs to strengthen democracy and that nothing is more important to democracy than freedom of expression. So, as of 10 February, the media will be free of visits by censors.

[Calvo Otero] We are aware of the situation the country is going through right now. We know that news reports have a significant impact on current events, but the media is aware of its responsibilities and we believe this is a responsibility we must handle. People outside the media should not tell us what can and what cannot be published. I believe that the president has been honest. I believe that this bitter feeling of having someone censor the media is going to end.

[Graniel] This is a happy day for the media because the government has decided to withdraw the censors and to let the media assume responsibility. I believe that throughout history the media has demonstrated its appreciation of democratic institutions, its love for democracy, and its rejection of dictatorship, and I believe that it deserves this trust. I believe that the media, the government, and the country have won an important victory. We do not want censors, we do not need censors. The Venezuelan media is mature enough to realize that the country is going through a difficult time. [end recording]

AD Deputy Secretary Luis Emilio Rondon announced that several projects that will benefit the most needy sectors directly will be implemented soon.

[Begin Rondon recording] The projects deal with health, social assistance—through the Family Ministry—and with the country's water resources. This political leadership wants to implement, with all the mechanisms at its disposal, important modifications that may be necessary to respond to the demands that have been made.

It is suitable to tell the people that this social project had previously been conceived, that the government or the party is not responding hastily to the people's needs. This had been planned and now has received the absolute backing of the AD National Directorate. [end recording]

Social programs will be implemented as of now, as Luis Emilio Rondon stated.

'Siege' of EL NACIONAL Lifted; Censors Withdrawn

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[Text] Caracas, 10 Feb (EFE)—On 10 February, the Venezuelan Government decided to lift the siege that members of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention [DISIP] forces had set up around the EL NACIONAL newspaper. The government also withdrew the censors sent to other local media.

The government's decision was confirmed by representatives of EL NACIONAL and other newspapers and radio stations that the government had intervened when some constitutional rights were suspended through a decree issued following the foiled 4 February coup attempt.

The actions against the media, to which President Carlos Andres Perez had attributed a measure of responsibility in the military officers' uprising because of the newspapers' criticism of the government, provoked international solidarity with the Venezuelan journalists.

Several unions and international organizations, mainly from America, sent notes protesting the government's repressive measures. The notes regarded such measures as foolish, disproportionate, and contrary to their alleged objectives.

This is the first time since democracy was established 34 years ago that a Venezuelan Government has adopted so radical a measure as censorship.

It was said in government circles that the measure had intended to prevent the image of the coupists, particularly that of Commander Hugo Chavez, their apparent leader, from taking root in the people's sentiments.

For the time being, it is unclear whether the lifting of the siege on EL NACIONAL and the withdrawal of the censors means that the media's activities have returned to normal or if information will continue to be controlled by more subtle means.